

ANKARA
and
The Central Anatolian Region





Tuz Gölü (Salt Lake)

CENTRAL ANATOLIA

The central Anatolian plateau forms the heartland of Turkey: ochre-hued, cleft by ravines and dominated by volcanic peaks. The boldly contoured steppe has a solitary majesty covered with wheat fields framed by ranks of poplars.

This plateau was also a cradle of human civilization. At **Çatalhöyük**, remains of settlements as old as the eighth millennium B.C. have been unearthed. Here in the homeland of many civilizations and the historic battleground between East and West, the Hattis, Hittites, Phrygians, Galatians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks and Ottomans all fought for their sovereignty and established their rule. In the 11th century, migrating Turks from the east made the plateau their own.



Ankara (Angora) cat

During its turbulent history, Central Anatolia has endured invasion by great conquerors, such as Alexander the Great and Tamerlane. In the course of ten millennia of habitation, the denizens of the area have reflected in their art the dramatic contours of the surrounding landscape, from the vigorous paintings of Çatalhöyük and the confident lines of Seljuk architecture, to, more recently, the impressive modern form of Atatürk's mausoleum.



Anıtkabir

ANKARA

The city of Ankara lies in the center of Anatolia on the eastern edge of the great, high Anatolian Plateau, at an altitude of 850 meters. The province is a predominantly fertile wheat steppeland, with forested areas in the northeast. It is bordered by the provinces of Çankırı and Bolu to the north, Eskişehir to the west, Konya and Aksaray to the south, and Kırıkkale and Kırşehir to the east.

The region's history goes back to the Bronze Age Hatti civilization, which was succeeded in the 2nd millennium B.C. by the Hittites, in the 10th century B.C. by the Phrygians, then by the Lydians and Persians. After these came the Galatians, a Celtic race who were the first to make Ankara their capital in the 3rd century B.C. It was then known as Ancyra, meaning "anchor," one of the oldest words in the language of the sea-loving Celts. The city subsequently fell to the Romans, and to the Byzantines. Seljuk Sultan Alparslan opened the door into Anatolia for the Turks at the victory of Malazgirt in 1071. Then in 1073, he annexed Ankara, an important

location for military transportation and natural resources, to Turkish territory.

The city was an important cultural, trading, and arts center in Roman times, and an important trading center on the caravan route to the east in Ottoman times. It had declined in importance by the nineteenth century. It again became an important center when Kemal Atatürk chose it as the base from which to direct the War of Liberation. By consequence of its role in the war and its strategic position, it was declared the capital of the new Republic of Turkey on October 13th, 1923.

SITES TO SEE

Anıtkabir (Atatürk Mausoleum): Located on an imposing hill in the Anıttepe quarter of the city stands the mausoleum of Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Turkey. Completed in 1953, it is an impressive fusion of ancient and modern architectural ideas and remains unsurpassed as an accomplishment of modern Turkish architecture. There is a museum housing a supe-



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

rior wax statue of Atatürk; writings, letters and items belonging to Atatürk, as well as an exhibition of photographs recording important moments in his life and in the establishment of the Republic. (Anıtkabir is open everyday, and the museum every day except Mondays. During the summer, there is a light and sound show in the evenings).

MUSEUMS

The Museum of Anatolian Civilizations is close to the citadel entrance. An old bedesten (covered bazaar) has been beautifully restored and now houses a marvelous and unique collection of Paleolithic, Neolithic, Hatti, Hittite, Phrygian, Urartian, and Roman works and showpiece Lydian treasures. (Open every day, except Monday. During the summer, the museum opens every day).

The Ethnography Museum is opposite the Opera House on Talat Paşa Boulevard. There is a fine collection of folkloric artifacts as well as artifacts from Seljuk and Ottoman mosques. (Open every day, except Monday).

The Painting and Sculpture Museum is close to the Ethnography Museum and houses a rich collection of Turkish art from the late 19th century to the present day. There are also galleries for guest exhibitions. (Open every day, except Monday).

The Liberation War Museum, diagonally



**Painting and Sculpture
Museum**

across the street from Ulus Square, is in what was originally the first parliament building of the Republic of Turkey. There the War of Liberation was planned and directed as recorded in various photographs and items on exhibition. In another display are wax figures of former presidents of the Republic of Turkey. (Open every day, except Monday).

The Museum of the Republic, close to the Liberation War Museum, is housed in what was the second parliament building of the Republic. The exhibition here records important events in the early republican period. (Open every day, except Monday).

Atatürk's House is on the grounds of the Presidential Palace in Çankaya and was Atatürk's house after the founding of the Republic. The house is much as it was in Atatürk's day, and exhibits photographs that record important events. (Open Sundays and on religious and national holidays, 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm).

The Natural History Museum can be found on the grounds of the MTA (Mineral Research and Exploration Institute) on the Eskişehir road in Ankara. The displays record the evolutionary development of the world. (Open every day except religious holidays).

PTT Museum collections were begun between 1880 and 1888 by then Postal Director İzzet Efendi. The Museum in

Altındağ was opened in 1982, and contains a postal display, a telegraph and telephone display, and a stamp display. (Open weekdays).

The TRT Museum (Turkish Radio & Television Broadcasting) has exhibits from the beginning of radio in Turkey, including antique phonographs and radios. It is located in the TRT General Directorate building in the Oran district. (Open Mon., Wed., Fri., 11 am - 3 pm).

Mehmet Akif Ersoy Museum, on the Hacettepe University Central Campus, commemorates the famous national poet who, in this house, wrote the text of the Turkish national anthem, as well as songs of independence, and many poems. (Open weekdays from 10 am - 12 pm and 2 pm - 4 pm).

The TCDD Open-air Locomotive Museum, near the railway station by Celal Bayar Blvd., shows the history of steam locomotion through the locomotives on display. (Open weekdays).

The Cartography Museum, located in the Harita Genel Komutanlığı building in the Cebeci quarter, has old and new maps. (Open Tues. and Thurs. from 9 am - 12 pm and 2 pm - 5 pm).

The Meteorology Museum on Sanatorium Ave. in Kalaba, shows the history of meteorology in Turkey. (Open weekdays).

The Education Museum follows the history

and technology of education in Turkey. It is located in Ankara Gazi University, in the Beşevler district. (Open weekdays).

The Toy Museum in Cebeci houses toys of all kinds made of wood, metal, porcelain, paper, etc. (Open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 5 pm).

METU Museum on the campus of Middle East Technical University has archeological artifacts and ethnographic displays. (Open weekdays, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm).

T.C. Ziraat Museum at the Ulus branch of the bank displays a rich collection of coins and money in a building of architectural beauty. (Open weekdays from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm)

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Ankara Citadel: The foundations of the citadel were laid by the Galatians on a prominent lava outcrop, and completed by the Romans. The Byzantines and Seljuks made restorations and additions. The area around and inside the citadel, being the oldest part of Ankara, contains many fine examples of traditional architecture. There are also lovely green areas in which to relax. It is well known that the Ankara region was the cradle of wine in Hatti and Hittite times around 2000 B.C.. Many restored traditional Turkish houses in the area of the citadel have found new life as restaurants, serving local and international dishes and wine.



**Mother goddess from Çatalhöyük,
Museum of Anatolian Civilizations,
Ankara**



**Cultic figure from Alacahöyük,
Museum of Anatolian
Civilizations, Ankara**

Roman Theatre: The remains, including *pro-scene* (stage), and *scene* (backstage), can be seen outside the citadel. Roman statues that were found here are exhibited in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. The audience area is still under excavation.

Temple of Augustus: The temple is in the Ulus quarter of the city. It was built by the Galatian King Pylamenes in 10 A.D. as a tribute to Augustus, and was reconstructed by the Romans on the ancient Ankara Acropolis in the 2nd century. It is important today for the "Monument Ancyranum," the sole surviving "Political Testament" of Augustus, detailing his achievements, inscribed on its walls in Latin and Greek. In the fifth century the temple was converted into a church by the Byzantines.

Roman Bath: The bath, situated on Çankırı Avenue in Ulus, has all the typical features: a *frigidarium* (cold room), *tepidarium* (cool room) and *caldarium* (hot room). They were built in the time of Emperor Caracalla (3rd century A.D.) in honour of Asclepios, the god of medicine. Today only the basement and first floors remain.

Column of Julian: This column, in Ulus, was erected in 362 A.D., probably to commemorate a visit by the Roman Emperor Julian the Apostate. It stands fifteen meters high and has a typical leaf decoration on the capital.

Monument of the Republic: Erected in 1927 in Ulus Square, it is a symbol of the



Atatürk Museum



Kocatepe Mosque



Güven Park

struggle for independence on the part of Atatürk and the Turkish people in the War of Liberation.

Monument to a Secure, Confident Future: This monument, in Güven Park, was erected in 1935 and bears Atatürk's advice to his people: "Be proud, hardworking, and believe in yourself."

Victory Monument: Erected in 1927 in Zafer Square in the Sıhhiye quarter, it shows Atatürk in uniform.

Hattı Monument: Erected in the 1970's in Sıhhiye Square, this impressive monument symbolizes the Hattı gods and commemorates Anatolia's earliest known civilization.

MOSQUES

Hacı Bayram Mosque: This mosque, in Ulus, next to the Temple of Augustus, was built in the early 15th century in Seljuk style and was subsequently restored by Sinan in the 16th century, with Kütahya tiles being added in the 18th century. The mosque was built in honor of Hacı Bayram Veli, whose tomb is next to the mosque.

Aslanhane Mosque: This Seljuk mosque, near the citadel, was built in the 13th century. The mosque has a mihrap (prayer niche showing the direction to Mecca) of Seljuk tiles, and an unusual double colonnade of wooden columns. Next to the mosque is the tomb of Ahi Şerafeddin.

Ahi Elvan Mosque: Found in the Ulus

quarter near the Citadel, this mosque was built and finished during the late 14th and early 15th centuries. The finely carved walnut mimber (pulpit) is of particular interest.

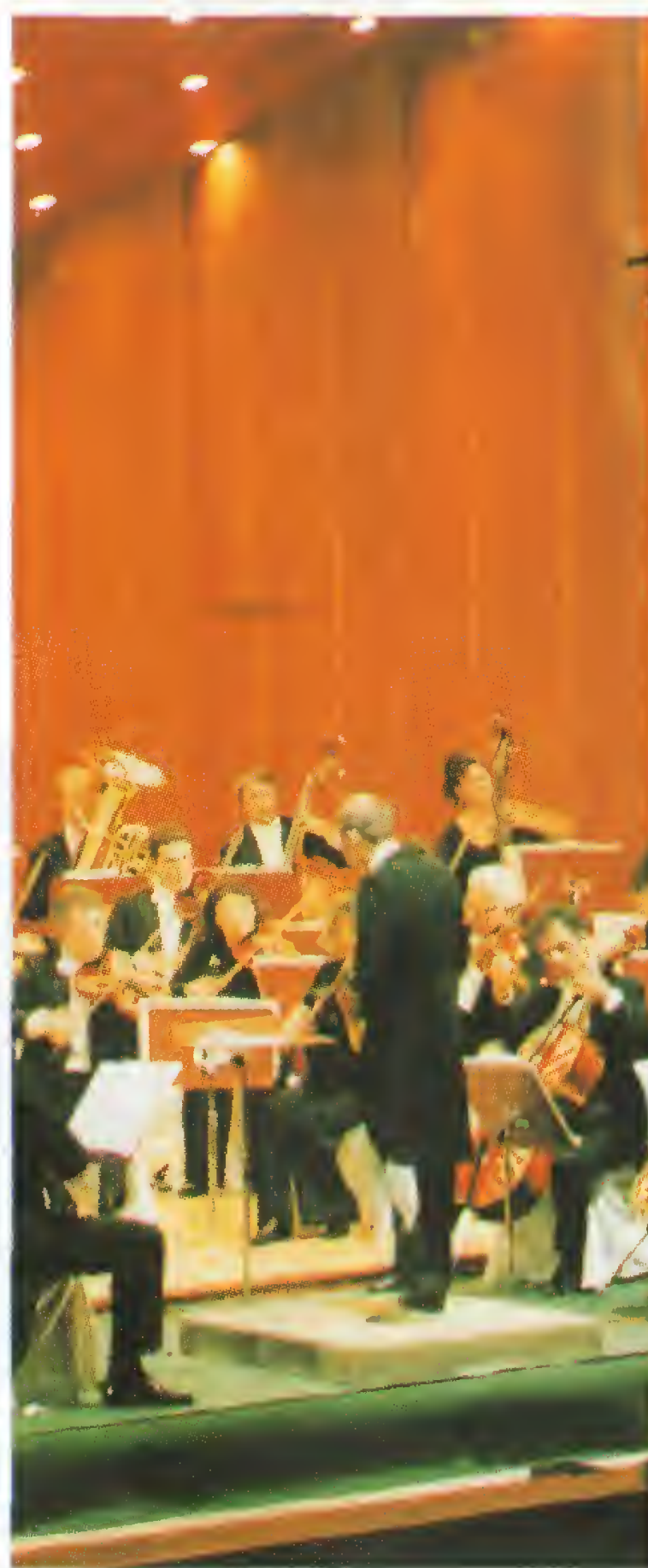
Alaaddin Mosque: This mosque is inside the Citadel walls. It has a carved walnut mimber, the inscription on which shows that the mosque was built in the 12th century by the Seljuk ruler, Mesut.

Yeni (Cenab Ahmet) Mosque: This is the largest Ottoman mosque in Ankara and was built by the famous architect Sinan in the 16th century. The mimber (pulpit) and mihrap (prayer niche) are of white marble, and the mosque itself is of Ankara stone (red porphyry), an example of very fine workmanship. Yeni Cami is on Ulucanlar Avenue.

Kocatepe Mosque: This is a recently constructed mosque of great size in classical Ottoman design with four minarets. Built between 1967 and 1987 in the Kocatepe quarter, its size and prominent situation have made it a landmark.

PARKS

Ankara has many delightful parks and open spaces established in the early years of the Republic in accordance with Atatürk's belief in the importance of trees and natural beauty. The most important of these parks are: **Gençlik Park** (which also has an amusement park), the **Botanical Gar-**



**Presidential Symphony
Orchestra**

den, Seğmenler, Anayasa, Kuğulu, Abdi İpekçi, Güven, Demetevler, Cemre, Kale, Anıt, Kurtuluş (for ice skating) and **Altın Park (Fairground)**.

Atatürk Orman Çiftliği (Atatürk Farm and Zoo) is now within the growing city and is a pleasant place to spend a day. There is also a replica of the house where Atatürk was born in Salonica, an excellent restaurant, and some cafes. Visitors can sample such famous products of the farm as its excellent beer, old-fashioned ice cream, yogurt, milk, and meat rolls.

GOLF

Erkeksu Çiftliği has a 9-hole golf course set in a lovely, peaceful countryside environment located 40 km west of Ankara via **Sincan**.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Ankara is a center for opera, ballet, jazz and modern dance, as well as home of the prestigious **Presidential Symphony Orchestra**. Ankara also has a large number of theatres staging many ambitious productions. In addition to public and private galleries throughout the city, exhibitions are also held at the **Atatürk Cultural Center**. The city also has many cinemas showing the best Turkish and foreign films, and there are a number of film festivals on various

themes throughout the year, in particular the **International Film Days** in March. Every year in April and May the city hosts the **Sevda Cenap And International Arts and Music Festival** with performances by the finest Turkish and foreign musicians. The **Children's Festival** on April 23 is also quite an event, with groups of children from all over the world taking part. There is also an **International Cartoon Film Festival** and the **Asian-European Arts Biennial** scheduled sometime in the spring or summer. Altın Park is home to the Ankara Fairgrounds where lovely fairs are held year-round.

SHOPPING

Visitors to the city usually like to visit the old shops in **Çıkırıkcılar Yokuşu** near Ulus. The street of copper workers (**Bakırcılar Çarşısı**) is particularly popular, and many interesting old and new items, not just of copper, can be found here, such as jewelry, carpets, costumes, antiques and embroidery. Walking up the hill to the citadel gate, you find many interesting shops selling spices, dried fruits, nuts, and all manner of produce; the selection is huge and very fresh. Modern shopping areas are mostly found in **Kızılay**, on **Tunalı Hilmi Avenue**, including the modern mall of **Karum**, and in the **Atakule Tower** in Çankaya. From the



Atakule

top of Atakule (125 meters) there is a magnificent view over the whole city. There is also a revolving restaurant where the complete panorama can be enjoyed in a more leisurely fashion. The **Galleria**, in Ümitköy and **Bilkent Center** are other modern shopping opportunities.

ENVIRONS OF ANKARA

Twenty-five kilometers to the south of Ankara on the Konya road is **Gölbaşı Lake**, a popular place to visit for its attractive scenery and its fine lake side restaurants. **İncek**, 15 km southwest of Ankara, is a favorite rest area for Ankara residents, with its lovely fruit trees, green areas and picnic sites. Another favorite place for picnics is **Karagöl Lake**, 68 km north of the city on the airport road, for which one should take the turn off for the town of Çubuk.

The three dams around the city, **Çubuk** (15 km on the Çankırı Highway), **Kurtboğazi** (50 km on the İstanbul Highway) and **Bayındır** (15 km on the Kırıkkale Highway) are pleasant places to visit for swimming and picnicking. There are also restaurants, and at Bayındır, good camping facilities. Other dams in the Ankara province include Sarıyer, Kesikköprü, Hirfanlı, Asartepe, and Çamlıdere.

Walkers will delight in exploring the three main forests around Ankara. South of the city, on the Kırşehir Highway (54 km), is

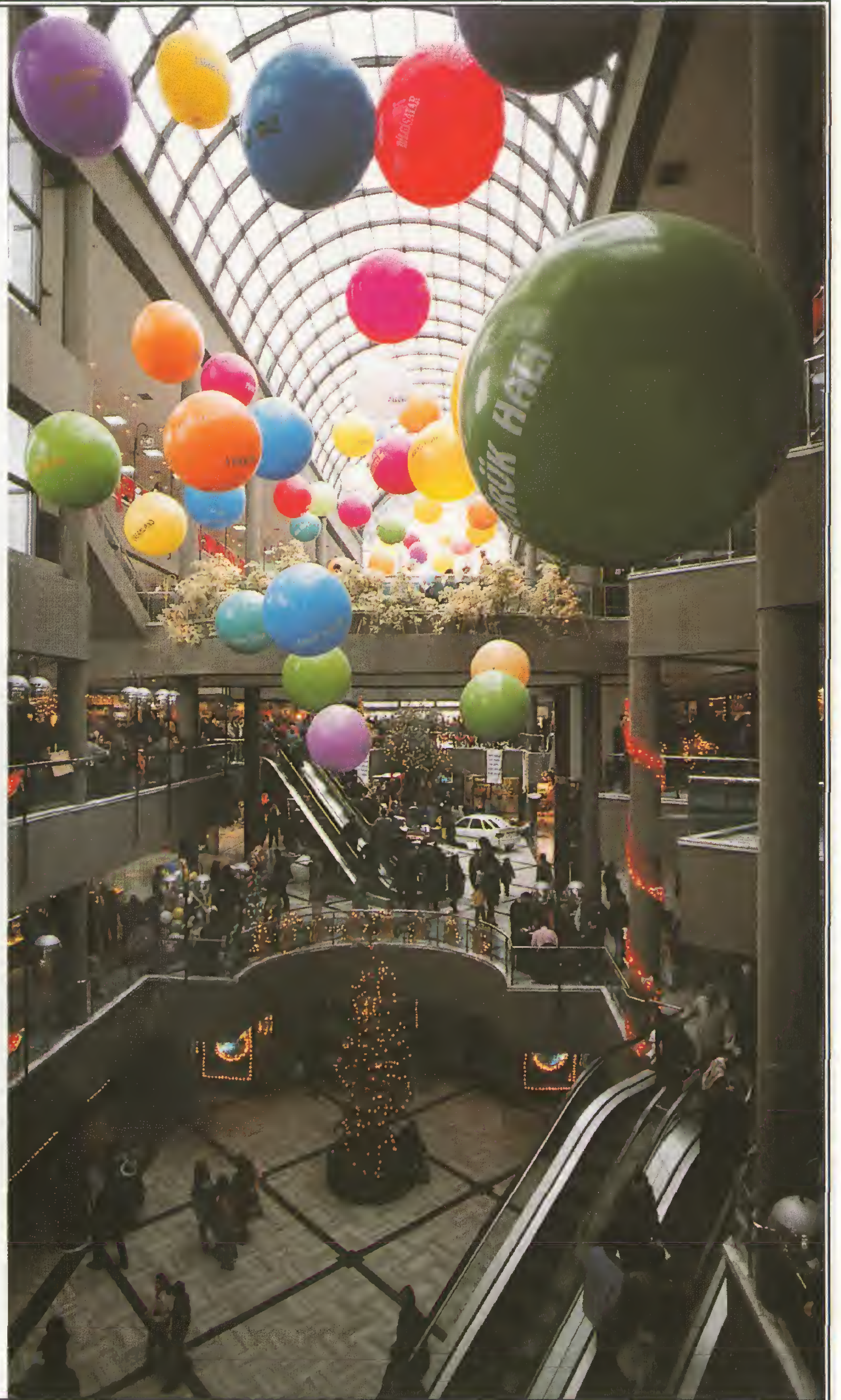
the **Beynam Forest**, while to the north, on the Istanbul Highway (82 km), is the **Kızılcahamam Soğuksu National Park** and farther along in the same direction (110 km) is the **Çamkoru Forest**. All are delightful retreats from the clamor of the city, and each provides many lovely places for picnics.

Elmadağ Mountain (1,855 meters), some 23 kilometers east of Ankara, can be seen from most parts of the city. The first snowfall on the mountain heralds the start of winter and the beginning of skiing, and other winter sports to be enjoyed at the pleasant resort center there.

THERMAL SPAS

In the province of Ankara there are six thermal centers: **Kızılcahamam Kaplıca** 80 km to the north, **Haymana Kaplıca** 72 km to the south, and to the northwest are **Ayaş Kaplıca** (57 km), **Dutlu Kaplıca** (85 km) **Melikşah** in Çubuk (30 km), and **Malıköy** in Polatlı (80 km). All offer comfortable facilities in which to soak away your cares. The thermal baths have beneficial properties and are, of course, altogether pleasurable.

Atakule Mall



WEST OF ANKARA

At **Gavurkalesi**, 60 km from Ankara on the Haymana Highway near **Dereköy**, the remains of an open-air Hittite temple, a tomb and two reliefs of Hittite gods can be seen.

The most important Phrygian sites in Anatolia are to be found in the provinces of Ankara, Eskişehir and Afyon. **Yassihöyük (Gordion)**, 105 km southwest of Ankara on the Eskişehir highway, was the capital of Phrygia and the place where Alexander the Great cut the Gordion Knot to gain the key to Asia. The tumulus of King Midas, who turned whatever he touched to gold, can be visited here. Nearby, the remains of the ancient city Gordion, still under excavation, and a small museum are worth a quick tour. Farther along the same Ankara-Eskişehir road is **Ballıhisar (Pessinus)**, an important Phrygian religious cult center. The most important remains are those of a temple to Cybele, the mother goddess whose worship was at the heart of the Phrygian culture. The small open air museum has some interesting sculptures and tombstones.

At **Midas City (Yazılı Kaya)**, between Afyon and Eskişehir, two enormous facades cut into a rocky promontory once held cult

statues for the worship of Cybele in their niches. Throughout the area rock tombs, cave-like openings, pierce the sand colored stone. An underground passage leads from the site to the valley below.

Aslantaş and **Aslankaya** were both centers of cult worship in Phrygian times. The former, 34 km north of Afyon, has two monumental lion reliefs; the latter, 52 km from Afyon, comprises a temple and a lion relief. Other Phrygian monuments can be explored at nearby **Doğanlıkale**, **Kümbet** and **Deveboynu**.

Eskişehir was founded by the Phrygians in the first millennium B.C. on the banks of the **Porsuk River**. Significant architectural monuments include the 13th-century Alaeddin Mosque and the 16th-century Kurşunlu Complex. All four of the city museums are worth visiting: the Archeological Museum has Phrygian artifacts and sculptures from the area; the Meerschaum Pipe Museum displays pipes and other meerschaum works; the Yeşil Efendi Ottoman House Museum, a fine example of 19th-century domestic architecture, houses a collection of local ethnographia as well as fireplaces where meerschaum



Sphinx gate
Alacahöyük, Çorum



Twelve gods in Yazılıkaya - Hattuşaş, Çorum



Seyit Battal Gazi Mosque Complex, Eskişehir

is cured; and the Atatürk Culture Museum has a photographic exhibition taken from Atatürk's life, a number of personal effects and a display of items made of meerschaum. The world's best meerschaum comes from mines in the area surrounding Eskişehir. Pipes and other objects can be purchased in the city souvenir shops. **Sakaryabaşı**, a spring-fed lake surrounded by beautiful park land, draws many visitors who want to enjoy the fresh air and eat fresh fish in one of the restaurants there.

Sivrihisar's charm derives from its many typical Ottoman houses which imbue the town with an air of bygone elegance. The 13th-century Ulu Mosque, formerly a caravanserai, and the Alemşah Mausoleum are very interesting and worth a visit. Connoisseurs of carpets and kilims will know that kilims from Sivrihisar are particularly prized. Near Sivrihisar, in the village **Nasrettin Hoca**, the Nasrettin Hoca Museum has ethnographical displays as well as amusing stories and pictures about the famous fabler.

On the hillside above **Seyyit Battal Gazi** stands the imposing 13th-century mosque and tomb complex built in memory of the "warrior of Islam," Seyyit Battal.

Yunus Emre Village (**Sarıköy**) is the burial place of **Yunus Emre**, the great 13th century poet. His poetry lives today, with its message of love and humanity as relevant

as ever. Commemorative celebrations are held in the town every May. In addition, visitors to his grave can see a small museum dedicated to his life and works.

NORTH OF ANKARA

The third-century B.C. Galatian settlement of **Gangrea** is the foundation of present day **Çankırı**, 135 km from Ankara. The earliest evidences of civilization are dated at about 3000 B.C. There are important tumuli (burial mounds) in this province, as well as artifacts from various civilizations in the Çankırı Museum. The ruins of an 11th-century fortress overlook the city. In town, the Ulu Mosque (Sultan Süleyman), completed in 1558 by Turkey's greatest architect, Sinan, recalls the years of Ottoman culture. The Çavundur thermal spa has bathing and drinking water beneficial for rheumatic and inflammatory diseases. The waters flow from the ground at 54°C at a rate of 47 liters/second. Taş Mescit, or Cemaleddin Ferruh Darulhadisi, a medieval hospital built in 1242, lies just outside the city. North of Çankırı is the beautiful **Ilgaz National Park** and Ski Center. In the park, **Kadın Çayırı** is a particularly lovely rest area with pools, green areas and cafes. Near **Eldivan**, 15 km southwest of Çankırı, is **Bülbülpınarı**, a picturesque rest area with lush greenery and picnic spots.



**Nasrettin Hoca,
Akşehir**

NORTHEAST AND EAST OF ANKARA

Kırıkkale is a rapidly expanding industrial center on the major highway that leads east out of Ankara to the Black Sea. Passing by Kırıkkale is the **Kızılırmak River**, known in ancient times as **Halys**, where you can spend a pleasant afternoon relaxing in one of the restaurants, set in the pastoral landscape, or visit the restful **Celal Bayar Park**. In Kırıkkale, the Gun Museum displays different types of guns that are made in Kırıkkale's gun factories.

After the highway divides, the eastern fork leads to **Yozgat**, 217 km from Ankara. Founded in the 18th century by the Ottomans, this city has two important buildings from this period - the Çapanoğlu Mosque and the adjoining Süleyman Bey Mosque. The 19th-century Nizamoğlu Mansion, an attractive example of domestic Turkish architecture, now houses ethnographical exhibits. The Yusuf Karshoğlu Mansion Archeological Museum has Hatti, Hittite, Phrygian, Roman and Byzantine artifacts. **Çamlık National Park** is a few kilometers south of the city.

All the major early-Hittite sites lie in the province of **Çorum** in **Boğazkale National**

Park, between Yozgat and the city of Çorum. Impressive double walls running past the Royal Gate, the Lion Gate and the Yer Kapı (an underground tunnel), ring the Hittite city of **Hattuşaş**, known today as Boğazkale. The more than 70 temples in the city made this the Hittite religious center and gave it the name, "City of Temples". The largest ruins are those of the great temple to the storm god Teshup. The Acropolis contained government buildings, the Imperial Palace and the archives of the Hittite Empire. In 1180 B.C. the Phrygians devastated the city. After thorough excavations at the site, the city walls are now being extensively restored.

Yazılıkaya, an open-air rock pantheon dating from the 13th century B.C., contains fine reliefs of all the Hittite gods and goddesses.

Alacahöyük, north of Boğazkale on the road to Çorum, was the center of the flourishing Hattian culture during the Bronze Age. The magnificent Hattian gold and bronze objects in the Museum of Anatolian Civilization in Ankara were found in the Royal Tombs dating from this period. All



Relief of god and king
in Hattuşaş, Çorum

the standing remains at Alacahöyük, however, such as the Sphinx Gate, date from the Hittite period. Important Hittite settlements in the province of Çorum include **Alışar** and **Masathöyük**, as well as **Şapinuva** in the county of **Ortaköy**, which is situated in beautiful countryside along the **Çekerek River**. Şapinuva was the second most important Hittite city in the kingdom. Between the **Abdullah** and **Kargı Plateaus** is the village of **Hacıhamza** with interesting regional architecture.

Çorum, an important city on the road from central Anatolia to the Black Sea, produces the finest chickpeas in Turkey. Significant historical buildings include the 13th-century Ulu Mosque and the 19th-century clocktower. The tower, which was built in the shape of a minaret, is 27.5 meters high, 5.3 meters in diameter, and has an eight-sided base and is ascended by means of an 81-step circular staircase.

The small town of **Merzifon**, 49 km northwest of Amasya, has several Ottoman monuments, including the 15th century Çelebi Sultan Mehmet Medrese (theological college), the 17th century Kara Mustafa Paşa Mosque, and the 19th century clock tower. There are also sights worth seeing in Gümüşhacıköy, 22 km from Merzifon, including a 19th century bazaar, the 15th century Haliliye Medrese, and 18th and 19th century Yakup Paşa, Darphane, and Maden mosques.



**Decorative ceiling in Merzifon,
Amasya**



**Hazeranlar Mansion,
Amasya**

Set in a narrow gorge of the **Yeşilırmak (Iris) River**, **Amasya** dates from the third century B.C. The ruins of the citadel rise from the craggy rock and contain an Ottoman Palace and a secret underground passageway. Hewn into the rock face above the city, are impressive Roman rock tombs that are illuminated at night creating a spectacular image. The beauty of the natural surroundings and the splendid architectural legacy have combined to endow the city with the accolade of one of the most beautiful cities in Turkey. Among the sights of interest for visitors are the 13th-century Seljuk Burmalı Minare Mosque, the Torumtay Tomb, the Gökmedrese Mosque, the 14th-century İlhanid Hospital with lovely reliefs around its portal, the 15th-century Beyazıt I Mosque complex and the unusual octagonal Kapı Ağa Medrese.

Traditional Turkish wooden mansions, or konaks, on the north bank of the Yeşilırmak River in the Hatuniye quarter (Yalıboyu), have been restored to their former splendor, and some of these have been turned into guest houses. The restored 19th-century Hazeranlar Konağı, one of the loveliest, now houses an art gallery on the first floor and the Ethnography Museum on the second. The Archeology Museum has an interesting collection of regional artifacts including mummies of the İlhanid Mongol rulers of Amasya. Cafes, restaurants, tea

gardens and parks line the riverside and provide tranquil spots from which to enjoy the city's romantic atmosphere. From the top of **Çakallar Hill** you have a beautiful view of the city.

Excellent places for relaxing are located near Amasya. Set amid magnificent mountain scenery, **Borabay Mountain Lake** is one such popular place for day trips. It is 63 km northeast of Amasya at an elevation of 1,050 meters. Seven Swans Bird Heaven is a refuge for migratory birds 32 km from Amasya. And Terziköy Thermal Spring, with hotel and motel facilities, is 36 km away.

The whole province of Amasya is filled with orchards which produce some of the world's most delicious apples.

Tokat, also on the Yeşilırmak River, has many Seljuk and Ottoman monuments which lend a picturesque yet solemn aesthetic to the cityscape. Among the main historical buildings are the ruins of a 28 tower castle, the 11th-century Garipler Mosque and a Seljuk bridge. The 13th-century Pervane Bey Darüşşifası (Gök Medrese), one of Tokat's finest buildings, is now the Archeology Museum. A regional commercial center, Tokat has retained many of its old commercial warehouses, including the Taşhan, Suluhan, Yağcıoğlu Hanı and Gazi Emir (Yazmacılar) Hanı. A walk down Sulu Sokak in the city center, a street lined with inns, mausoleums, bazaars



Tokat ceramics



Historical houses



Taşhan (Voyvodahan), Tokat

and baths, provides an excellent overview of the city's architecture. In the Gazi Emir (Yazmacılar) Hanı you can find many specimens of block-printed cloth, a 300-year-old tradition for which Tokat is famous. A tradition of carved and painted wood decoration and painted murals give the konaks (mansions) of Tokat a particular elegance. The 19th-century Madımağın Celalin Konak and the Latifoğlu Konak have been restored to their former splendor to give a vivid picture of the good life in rural Turkey 100 years ago. The **Balıca Cave** in Tokat, containing many fossils, is also a must to see. It is 680 m long with five underground levels and eight large rooms. The air in this cave filled with stalactites and stalagmites is beneficial for sufferers of asthma.

In 47 BC, the Romans conquered the four cities of Komana, Zela (Zile), Neccaesarea (Niksar), and Sebastapolis (Sulusaray) which were included in the province of Pontus in the first century AD.

Niksar, 69 kilometers northeast of Tokat, was once the capital of the Danişmend Emirs. The town has a well-preserved citadel as well as early Turkish monuments, including the Çöreği Büyük Mosque, which boasts a very fine 12th-century carved stone portal. It was in **Zile**, south of Amasya and west of Tokat that Julius Caesar, after a particularly speedy battle,

quaffed a cup of Tokat's fine local wine, and declared his famous "Veni, vidi, vici." Beneath the citadel which guards the city stands the restored Ulu Mosque of 1269.

Sivas, an important commercial center during the Middle Ages, stood at the junction of the caravan routes to Persia and Baghdad. Between 1142 and 1171 it was the capital of the Danişmend Emirs and a vitally important urban center during Seljuk rule. The remaining architectural monuments reflect this formerly prominent position. The Ulu Mosque dates from the Danişmend Emirate. The Seljuk buildings include the 13th-century İzzeddin Keykavus Şifahanesi, which was a hospital and a medical school, the beautifully decorated Gök Medrese, the twin minarets of the Çifte Minare Medrese and the Buruciye Medrese all of which reflect the aesthetic of the Seljuk period.

In 1919, the decision to liberate Turkey from occupying foreign powers was made by the National Congress which was convened in Sivas. Today, the 19th-century building where the congress was held has been restored as the Atatürk and Congress Museum, with a display from the War of Liberation as well as an ethnographic exhibit. In the Buruciye Medrese, the Museum of Archeology and Stoneworks displays finds from local digs as well as Islamic tombstones decorated with reliefs. The 19th-century Akaylar



Gökmedrese, Sivas



Sivas Kangal Dog

Mansion Museum is now an ethnographic museum. In town, there are excellent Sivas carpets for sale; the city has long had a reputation for fine weaving. And in **Sivrialan** Village, the Aşık Veysel Museum commemorates the famous Turkish poet (1884-1973) who was born here and who lived and died here.

Kangal, 68 km south of Sivas, is the home of Turkey's most famous breed of dog - the kangal ("dog of the Galatians," which came with them in the 3rd century B.C). Used as sheep dogs, these golden-haired animals have also proven themselves in police and security work. Twelve kilometers northeast of Kangal is the famous **Balıkli Kaplıca** spa. At 36 degrees Celsius the waters contain bicarbonate, calcium, and magnesium, and spring from the earth accompanied by scores of tiny fish that are said to aid in the cure of skin complaints. In the province of Sivas are the famous spas of **Sıcak Çermik** (warm spring) and **Soğuk Çermik** (cold spring).

Once a Byzantine outpost, **Divriği** became the capital of the Turkish Mengücek Emirs in the 12th and 13th centuries. Although very much off the beaten track, visitors come to Divriği to see the Ulu Mosque and Medrese of 1229. Seljuk stonework reached its most exuberant expression in the animal and flower carvings on the portals. UNESCO has declared this site one of the world's leading cultural heritages.

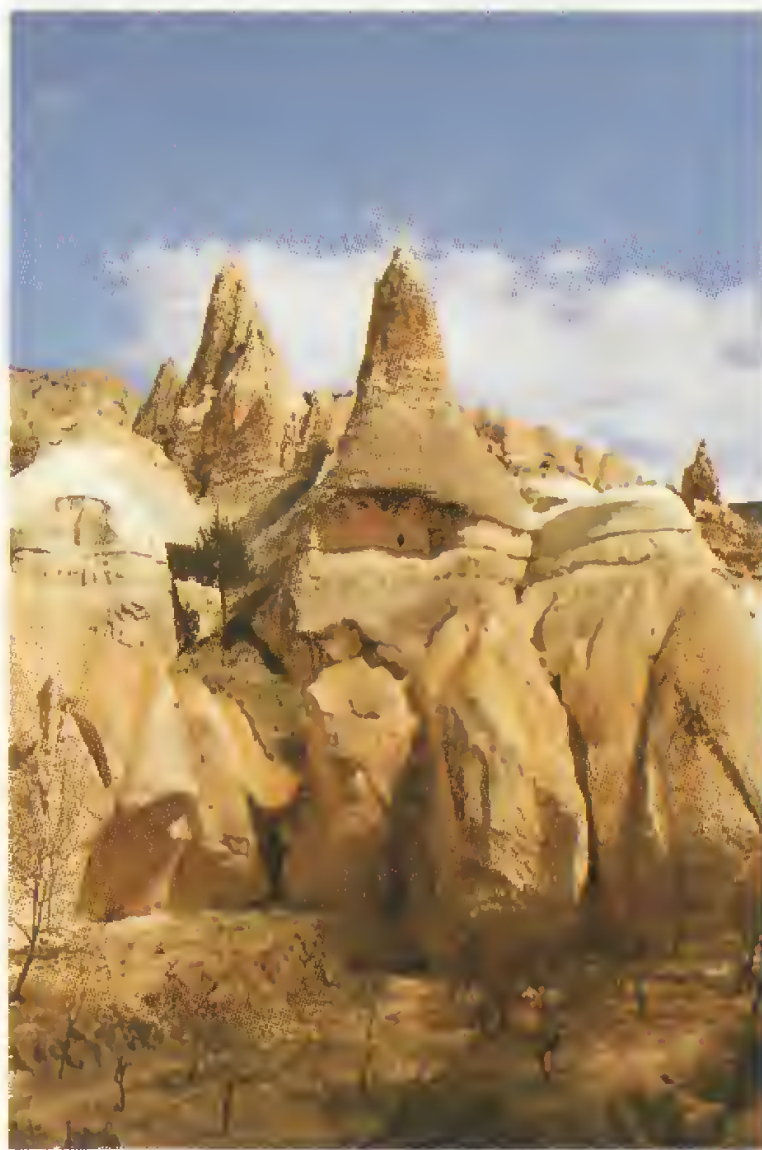
SOUTHEAST OF ANKARA

Founded in ancient times, **Kırşehir** became, in the Middle Ages, the center of the Ahi Brotherhood, a Moslem sect whose moral and social tenets played an important role in the spiritual and political life of Anatolian towns. Among Kırşehir's many fine Seljuk buildings are the Cacabey Mosque of 1272 (a former astrological observatory), the Alaeddin Mosque of 1230, and the Ahi Evran Mosque, near the tomb of the founder of the Ahi sect. Out of town, on the road toward Kayseri, is the attractive Aşık Paşa Mausoleum which was built during the period of Mongol rule, in 1333. The Kırşehir Archeology Museum houses objects mostly from Kalehöyük.

A major archeological center at Kalehöyük, in **Kaman** county, in the province of Kırşehir is still being excavated. Near **Kalehöyük** in a center of what were Hatti and Hittite settlements, is located one of the largest parks in Turkey, the **Mikasonmiya Anı Bahçesi** which contains 16,500 trees of 33 different species. The road to Nevşehir and Cappadocia passes through Hacıbektaş, the town where **Hacı Bektaş Veli** settled and estab-



Cacabey Mosque, Kırşehir



Cappadocia

lished his Bektaş Sufi order in the 14th century. The whirling dervishes who followed principles of love and humanism were housed in the monastery which includes a mausoleum and mosque. The complex is now a museum open to the public. Honey and rose-colored onyx, plentiful in the region, were used by disciples of this order and are known as Hacıbektaş stone. In town, there are many exquisite onyx souvenirs for sale. It is also worth stopping to take in the interesting Archeology and Ethnography Museum.

Nevşehir, a provincial capital, is the gateway to **Cappadocia**. In the town itself are the hilltop Seljuk castle, perched on the highest point in the city, and the Kurşunlu Mosque, built for the Grand Vizier Damat Ibrahim Pasha. The mosque is part of a complex of buildings which includes a medrese (theological college), a hospice and a library. An ablution fountain in the courtyard still bears its original inscription. The Nevşehir Museum displays local artifacts.

Violent eruptions of the volcanoes **Mt. Erciyes** (3,916 meters) and **Mt. Hasan** (3,268 meters) long ago covered the

plateau surrounding Nevşehir with tufa, a soft stone comprised of lava, ash and mud. The wind and rain have eroded this brittle rock and created a spectacular surrealistic landscape of rock cones, capped pinnacles and fretted ravines, in colors that range from warm reds and golds to cool greens and greys. Locals call these fascinating capped pinnacles “peri bacaları” or “fairy chimneys.” **Göreme National Park**, known in Roman times as Cappadocia, is one of those rare regions in the world where the works of man blend unobtrusively into the natural surroundings. Dwellings have been hewn from the rocks as far back as 4,000 B.C. During Byzantine times, chapels and monasteries were hollowed out of the rock, their ochre-toned frescoes reflecting the hues of the surrounding landscape. Even today cave dwellings in rock cones and village houses of volcanic tufa merge harmoniously into the landscape.

Ürgüp, a lively tourist center at the foot of a rock ridge riddled with old dwellings, serves as an excellent base from which to tour the sights of Cappadocia. In Ürgüp itself you can still see how people once lived in homes cut into the rock. If you wish to buy carpets and kilims, there is a wide selection available from the town's many carpet dealers, who are as colorful as their carpets, offering tea, coffee or a glass



Ortahisar, Nevşehir

of wine to their customers and engaging in friendly conversation. If sightseeing and shopping haven't exhausted you, the disco welcomes you to yet another kind of entertainment. At the center of a successful wine-producing region, Ürgüp hosts an annual International Wine Festival in October.

Leaving Ürgüp and heading south, you reach the lovely isolated **Pancarlık Valley** where you can stop to see the 12th-century church with its splendid frescoes, and the **Kepez** church, which dates from the 10th century. Continue on to the typical village of **Mustafapaşa (Sinastos)**, where traditional stone houses with carved and decorated facades evoke a former age. Travel on in a southerly direction, just past the village of **Cemil**, where a footpath on the west side of the road leads to **Keşlik Valley** where you will find a monastery complex and the Kara and Meyvalı Kiliseler (churches), both decorated with frescoes. Back on the main road you find the village of **Taşkınpaşa** where the 14th-century Karamanid Mosque and Mausoleum Complex, and the remains of a medrese portal on the edge of town make for a pleasant diversion. The next village is **Şahinefendi** where the 12th-century Kırkşehitler church, adorned with beautiful frescoes, stands at the end of a footpath 500 meters east of the village.

Soğanlı Valley, 50 km south of Ürgüp, is picturesque with its innumerable chapels, churches, halls, houses and tombs. The frescoes, from the 8th to the 13th centuries, trace the development of Byzantine painting. Four kilometers north of Ürgüp is the wonderful **Devrent Valley**, where the weather has eroded the stone into peaks, cones and obelisks called fairy chimneys.

Two kilometers west, in the **Çatalkaya Valley**, the fairy chimneys have a peculiar mushroom-like shape, which has been adopted as a symbol of the town.

The **Göreme Open-Air Museum**, a monastic complex of rock churches and chapels covered with frescoes, is one of the best-known sites in central Turkey. Most of the chapels date from the 10th to the 13th centuries (the Byzantine and Seljuk periods) and many of them are built on an inscribed cross-plan with a central cupola supported by four columns. In the north annexes of several churches are cut-rock tombs. Among the most famous of the **Göreme** churches are the Elmalı Church, the smallest and most recent of the group; the Yılanlı Church with fascinating frescoes of the damned entwined in serpent coils; the Barbara Church; and the Çanklı Church. A short way from the main group, the Tokalı Kilise, or Buckle Church, has beautiful frescoes depicting scenes from the New Testament.

The town of Göreme is set right in the middle



Cappadocia

of a valley of cones and fairy chimneys. Some of the cafes, restaurants and guest-houses are carved into the rock. For shoppers, rugs and kilims are plentiful.

Continuing on the road out of Göreme, you enter one of the most beautiful valleys in the area. Rock formations rise up before you at every turn and entice you to stop and wonder at their creation. For those who climb the steps to the top of the **Uçhisar** fortress the whole region unfolds below. Rugs, kilims, and popular souvenirs can easily be purchased from the shops which line Uçhisar's narrow streets.

At **Çavuşin**, on the road leading north out of Göreme, you will find a triple-apse church and the monastery of St. John the Baptist. In the town are chapels and churches, and some of the rock houses are still inhabited. From Çavuşin to **Zelve**, fairy chimneys line the road. Unfortunately, it is dangerous to visit the churches in the Zelve valley because erosion has undermined the floors.

The charming town of **Avanos**, on the banks of the Kızılırmak River, displays attractive local architecture and is known for its handicrafts. Every August the town hosts an Art and Tourism Festival where a creative and friendly atmosphere pervades.

Pottery is the most popular handicraft and it is usually possible to try your hand at making a pot in one of the many studios. Rug weaving and knotting is also making a

come-back. Leaving Avanos in a southerly direction you come to an interesting Seljuk caravanserai, **Sarıhan**.

On the Nevşehir - Ürgüp road you can't miss **Ortahisar** and its carved-rock fortress. The churches in the **Balkan Valley** are some of the oldest in the Göreme region. In the neighboring **Hallaç Valley**, the Hallaç Monastery displays decorations from the 10th and the 11th centuries. North of Ortahisar, the **Kızılçukur Valley** is breathtakingly beautiful, especially at sunset. In the valley is the 9th-century Üzümlü church.

The underground cities of **Kaymaklı**, **Mazı**, **Derinkuyu**, **Tatların**, and **Özkonak** were all used by Christians of the seventh century, who were fleeing from persecution. They sheltered from the iconoclastic strife of Byzantium as well as other invasions in these safe and well-hidden complexes. These cities were a complete and self-sufficient environment, including rooms for grain storage, stables, sleeping chambers, kitchens and air shafts. Today they are well-lit, and an essential and fascinating part of a Cappadocian tour.

West of Avanos, **Gölşehir** has Hittite rock inscriptions, and nearby, at **Gökçetepe**, there is a bas-relief of Zeus. South on the Nevşehir road is the 13th-century church of St. John, and farther along is **Açıksaray**, where the carved rocks hide churches and



**Karanlık Church, Göreme
National Park**

chapels.

West of Cappadocia, over the mountains, lies **Kayseri**, known as **Caesarea** in Roman times. The city spreads out at the foot of the extinct volcano, **Mt. Erciyes** (3,916 meters). In the winter months the ski center has excellent runs for downhill skiers, and several pleasant hotels that cater particularly to them. Close to the Byzantine fortress, the 13th-century Huand Hatun Mosque and Medrese, with the Mahperi Hatun Mausoleum, comprise the Huand Hatun Complex, the first Seljuk complex in Anatolia. The Medrese is now an Ethnography Museum. South of the complex, stands the beautifully decorated Döner Kümbet of 1276, a Seljuk mausoleum of classic simplicity. A major Seljuk city, Kayseri was an important center of learning and consequently, there are many medreses among the remaining historical buildings. Those interested in the Seljuk architecture should see the Çifte (Gıyasiye and Şifahiye) Medrese, the first Seljuk school of anatomy, which is now the Gevher Nesibe Medical History Museum. Nearby is the lovely Sahabiye Medrese. Near the city's bedesten (covered bazaar) is the restored 12th-century Ulu Mosque. The Hacı Kılıç Mosque, north of the Çifte Medrese, dates from 1249. In the Cumhuriyet quarter, the 19th-century Reşit Ağa Mansion houses the Atatürk Museum which displays Atatürk's personal belongings.

Across from the Atatürk Museum, the historical Güpgüpoğlu Mansion is now an Ethnography Museum.

South of Kayseri, in **Develi**, stand three more important Seljuk buildings: the Ulu Mosque, the Seyid-i Şerif Tomb and the Develi Tomb. The nearby **Sultan Marshes** are the habitat of many bird species, of interest both to ornithologists and nature lovers.

North of Kayseri, **Kültepe**, known in ancient times as **Kanesh** or **Karum**, was one of the earliest Hittite commercial cities. Dating from 2000 B.C., Kültepe was also one of the world's first cities of free trade. Today, however, only the foundations remain. Many of the finds can be examined in the Kayseri Archeological Museum.

On the same road is **Sultanhan**, a caravanserai built by the Seljuk Sultan Alaeddin Keykubat in the early 13th century and a favorite stop for tourists.

Kapuzbaşı Waterfall is 76 km south of Kayseri. In this beautiful natural site, seven different springs on the mountain face fall from heights ranging between 30 and 70 meters.

Kayseri is one of the most important carpet and kilim production centers in Anatolia. **Bünyan** is the most famous carpet production center and **Yahyalı** is the most famous kilim production center. Rugs woven in finely knotted floral patterns continue a centuries-old tradition. Local productions can be purchased in any of the Kayseri carpet

shops.

Niğde, **Nahita** of Hittite times, lies in a valley flanked by volcanic peaks commanding the ancient trade route from Anatolia to the Mediterranean. Niğde's castle owes its present form to the Seljuks, and the elegant Alaeddin Mosque dates from the same period. From the 14th century era of Mongol rule are the Sungur Bey Mosque and the Hüdavend Hatun Mausoleum, an excellent example of the Anatolian tower-tomb. The 15th-century Ak Medrese now houses the Archeology Museum.

Ten kilometers out of town is **Eskigümüş**, a Byzantine monastery and church with massive columns and frescoes. These frescoes, dating from the 10th and the 11th centuries, are among the best-preserved in the region.

Bor, south of Niğde, was once a Hittite settlement. The town's historical buildings include the Seljuk Alaeddin Mosque and the Ottoman bedesten. Farther on, in the same direction, **Kemerhisar** is the site of the important Roman city of **Tyana**. A few more kilometers brings you to some Hittite ruins and a Roman aqueduct. The beautiful **Aladağlar (Ala Mountains) National Park**, perfect for mountain climbing, trekking and relaxation, is 50 km southeast of Niğde. One of the highest peaks is **Demirkazık** (3756 m). The best place to start your excursion in the park is **Çukurbağ**.



Akmedrese, Niğde



Ala mountains, Niğde

Most of the historical buildings in **Aksaray**, such as the Ulu Mosque, date from the 14th century. The Kızıl Minaret is noted for its attractive decorative brickwork.

Two of the most famous caravanserais from the Seljuk period are in the area: 40 km west of the city is the well preserved **Sultanhan** Caravanserai built by the Seljuk Sultan Alaeddin Keykubat, and 15 km towards Nevşehir is the **Ağzıkarahan** Caravanserai.

The **Melendiz River**, at **Ihlara Valley**, has eroded the banks into an impressive canyon. Byzantine rock chapels covered with frescoes pierce the canyon walls. Some of the best known are the Ağaçalı (Daniel) Church, the Yılanlı (Apocalypse) Church and the

Sümbüllü (Hyacinth) Church.

Güzelyurt is another valley with dwellings dating from prehistoric times. You can see the beautiful silhouette of **Mt. Hasan** rising like a crown above the town. The valley's underground cities, buildings carved into the rock, interesting architecture, churches, chapels and mosques embody all of the characteristics of Cappadocia and give visitors a sense of historical continuity. Güzelyurt is a popular tourist destination with hospitable residents, extensive accommodations and numerous restaurants ensuring a pleasant stay. The rest area of **Evren** by the **Hirfanlı Dam Lake** offers fish restaurants, a beach and swimming.

SOUTH OF ANKARA

Konya, one of Turkey's oldest continuously inhabited cities was known as **Iconium** in Roman times. The capital of the Seljuk Turks from the 12th to the 13th centuries, it ranks as one of the great cultural centers of Turkey. During that period of cultural, political and religious growth, the mystic Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi founded a Sufi Order known in the West as the Whirling Dervishes. The striking green-tiled mausoleum of Mevlana is Konya's most famous building. Attached to the mausoleum, the former dervish seminary serves now as a museum housing manuscripts of Mevlana's works and various artifacts related to the mysticism of the sect. Every year, in the first half of December, this still-active religious order holds a ceremony commemorating the Whirling Dervishes. The controlled, trance-like turning or sema of the white-robed men creates a fascinating performance for the viewer.

Alaeddin Mosque was built on the site of the ancient Konya citadel in 1220, during the reign of the great Seljuk sultan Alaeddin Keykubat and commands the Konya skyline. To one side of the mosque are the remains of the Seljuk Imperial



Mevlana Museum, Konya

Palace. The Karatay Medrese, now a museum, displays bold and striking Seljuk ceramics. On the other side of the mosque, the Ince Minareli Medrese of 1258 is remarkable for its marvelous baroque Seljuk portal. Other Seljuk works include the Sırçalı Medrese and the Sahip Ata Complex. Visitors find Konya's Archeological Museum of exceptional interest. The collection of the Koyunoğlu Museum is a varied one, from natural history to old kilims. Within the museum complex, the restored İzzettin Koyunoğlu house illustrates the way of life of a prosperous Konya family in the last century. **Sille**, 10 km north of Konya, has the Byzantine Aya Eleni church and several rock chapels with frescoes. **Akşehir**, to the northwest, is known throughout Turkey as the birthplace of the 13th-century humorist Nasrettin Hoca, whose mausoleum stands in the town. The 13th-century Ulu Mosque and the Alıncakale Mescidi are other monuments worth seeing. The Sahip Ata Mausoleum has been converted into the town's museum.

On the way south to **Beyşehir** stop at **Eflatun Pınar** next to the lake to see this



Mevlevi Sema ceremony, Konya

unusual Hittite monumental fountain. Several interesting Seljuk buildings are scattered around lovely Beyşehir, on the shores of **Lake Beyşehir**, Turkey's third largest lake. In the southwestern region of the lake is the pristine wilderness of **Lake Beyşehir National Park**. Among the monuments are the Eşrefoğlu Mosque and Medrese, and the **Kubad-Abad Summer Palace** across the lake. Another medieval palace stands on **Kızkalesi Island**, opposite the Kubad-Abad Palace. **Hacı Akif Island** also offers relaxation and recreation to visitors.

Çatalhöyük, 45 km south of Konya, is a fascinating Neolithic site dating from the eighth millennium B.C., which makes it one of the world's oldest towns. Archeologists have determined that holes in the roofs of the mud houses were the entrance doors. The Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara houses the famous temple (reconstructed), along with mother-goddess figures and Neolithic frescoes from the original site.

Surrounding **Karapınar**, 96 km east of Konya, are numerous crater lakes; the most famous is the lovely **Meke Crater Lake**, 7 km southeast of Karapınar. On the north side of the road to **Ereğli**, 8 km from Karapınar, lies **Acı Crater Lake**. In the center of the lake is an island which is a natural wonder. Surrounding Ereğli, one of



the largest counties in the province of Konya, are yellow cherry trees. The Ereğli Archeological Museum displays many Hittite, Roman, Byzantine and Seljuk artifacts.

At **İvriz**, a Hittite site 168 km east of Konya and 18 km south of Ereğli, you can see one of Turkey's finest neo-Hittite reliefs of a king and god of bountiful crops.

Karaman was once the capital of the Karamanid Emirate, the first Turkish state to use Turkish instead of Persian as its official language. Fittingly, Yunus Emre, the first great poet to write in Turkish, lived here in the 13th century. The surrounding fortresses date from Seljuk times, although the town's most significant buildings, the Araboğlu, Yunus Emre and Akteke Mosques and the Hatuniye Medrese, were all built during the Karamanid reign.

The Region of 1001 Churches, the Karaman region, 150 kilometers from Konya is a largely undiscovered, mystical land of gently rolling hills and valleys, towering mountains, with monasteries, churches and chapel complexes. It is a paradise for photographers, walkers, nature-lovers and explorers. The Hittites settled in this region where many of their remains, including inscriptions have been discovered. One of the highest mountains in this region, **Mt. Karadağ** (2288 meters), is locally called **Mahalaç**; its ancient name was **Angel**



Reliefs in Ivriz, Konya

Michael. On top of the mountain, Hittites constructed a temple; the altar of which still remains. There are also the 4th-century remains of a monastery, church and a chapel complex; called the Angel Michael Complex. There is also a beautiful view here.

Visitors can still see the remains of churches and chapels at **Madenşehir**, 45 km from Karaman, on the northern slope of Mt. Karadağ.

Derbe, 30 km north of Karaman, was an important early Christian site; one of the many where St. Paul preached the gospel.

Near **Taşkale**, 48 km east of Karaman, on the rocky northern slope of **Yeşildere**

Valley, are the remains of the fascinating historical city of **Manazan**. Built during Byzantine times, the entire city of narrow lanes, houses, squares, storage facilities, chapels and cemeteries (occupying an area approximately three kilometers long and five stories high) was carved into the rocky hillside of the valley. Today, parts of the city are still used for storing wheat.

South of Karaman up a steep narrow road are the remains of a beautiful Byzantine monastery, **Alahan**. Much is still standing, and there is some fine stone carving to admire. This magnificent location offers a breathtaking view.

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Front Cover : Cappadocia, NEVŞEHİR

Photos :

Ministry of Tourism and Apa Archives, Bünyad Dinç, Necmi Erol,
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Necmettin Küllahçı, İzzet Keribar, Ahmet Kuzik,
Mustafa Türkyılmaz

Printed by : Yorum Matbaacılık / Ankara 2001

Tel: 0 (312) 395 21 12 - 395 21 13

For Free Distribution





ANTALYA and The Mediterranean Region



The logo for Turkey, featuring a stylized red and blue flame or flower shape above the word "Turkey" in a white, cursive script.



Oceanus Mosaic, Antakya Archeology Museum

TURKISH RIVIERA

In Antalya, the pine-clad Toros (Taurus) Mountains sweep down to the sparkling clear sea resulting in an irregular coastline of rocky headlands and secluded coves.



Alanya Castle and Red Tower, Antalya

The region, bathed in sunshine for 300 days of the year, is a paradise for sunbathing, swimming, and sports activities like wind surfing, water skiing, sailing, mountain climbing and spelunking. If you come to Antalya in March or April, you can ski in the mornings and in the afternoons swim in the warm waters of the Mediterranean. Awaiting your discovery are important historical sites



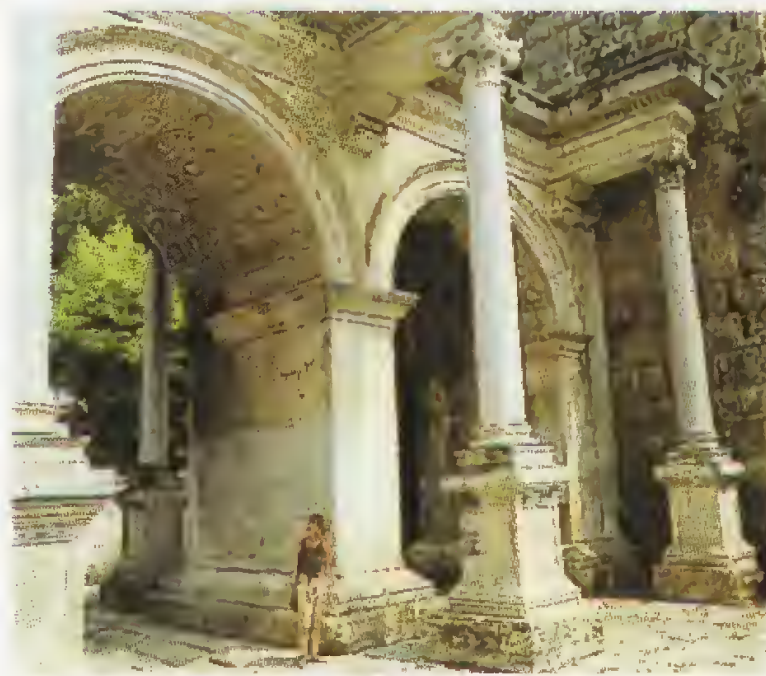
set in a landscape of pine forests, olive and citrus groves and palm, avocado and banana plantations.

The Turkish Riviera is the tourism capital of Turkey. Its full range of accommodation, from tourist class to deluxe hotels, and the hospitable people of Antalya will make your holiday comfortable and enjoyable.

ANTALYA

Surrounded by amazing scenery of sharp contrasts, Antalya, Turkey's principal holiday resort, is an attractive city with shady palm-lined boulevards and a prize-winning marina. In the picturesque old quarter of Kaleiçi, narrow, winding streets and old wooden houses abut the ancient city walls.

Antalya has been continuously inhabited since its founding in 159 BC by Attalos II, a king of Pergamum, who named the city **Attaleia** after himself. The Romans, Byzantines and Seljuks successively occupied the city before it came under Ottoman rule. The elegant, fluted minaret of the Yivli Minareli Mosque in the center of the city, built by the Seljuk sultan Alaeddin Keykubat in the 13th century, has become Antalya's symbol. The Karatay Medrese (theological college) in the Kaleiçi district, from the same period, exemplifies the best of Seljuk stone carving. The two most important Ottoman mosques in the city are the 16th-century Murat Paşa Mosque, remarkable for its tile decoration, and the 18th-century Tekeli Mehmet Paşa Mosque. Neighboring the marina, the attractive late 19th-century Iskele Mosque is built of cut stone and set on four pillars over a natural spring. The Hıdırlık Kulesi (tower) was



Hadrian's Gate, Antalya



probably constructed as a lighthouse in the second century. The Kesik Minaret Mosque, which was previously a church, attests to the city's long history in its succession of Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman renovations.

When Emperor Hadrian visited Phaselis in Antalya province in 130 AD a beautifully decorated three-arched gate with Corinthian columns was built into the city walls in his honor. It was the only entrance through the city walls. The two towers flanking the gate as well as other sections of the walls are still standing near the marina. The clock tower in Kalekapısı Square was also part of the old city's fortifications.

In the Atatürk and Karaalioğlu Parks, the colorful exotic flowers and the shimmering water in the bay with the mountains behind demonstrate why Antalya has become such a popular resort. At Aqua Park, on the eastern coast, every kind of water sport is available, including exciting water slides.

The award-winning Antalya Kaleiçi Marina



Yivli Minare (Fluted Minaret), Antalya



Icon in the Antalya Archeology Museum

and Leisure Center is considered one of the loveliest marinas in Turkey with its many souvenir shops, friendly cafes and restaurants as well as yacht moorings and services. Sail in the morning and enjoy the restful peace of the marina in the afternoon. The old city walls, lit up at night, lend an atmosphere of serenity and timelessness.

The **Archeological Museum**, with artifacts from the Paleolithic Age to Ottoman times, offers a glimpse of the area's rich history. Two-colored ceramics dated at 5400 - 8500 BC are worth seeing. The **Atatürk Museum** displays objects used by the founder of the



Aquapark, Antalya

Turkish Republic. (Both open weekdays except Monday)

The Antalya **Altın Portakal** (Golden Orange) Film and Art Festival, held in the autumn, attracts many participants and visitors. The ancient theater in Aspendos makes an impressive setting for some of the festival's plays and concerts. Antalya also hosts annual jewelry fairs.

A Culture, Exhibition and Congress Center was opened in 1996 in the Konyaalti Quarter. The Congress hall itself is in a glass pyramid.



Kaleiçi Yacht Harbor, Antalya

DAILY EXCURSIONS

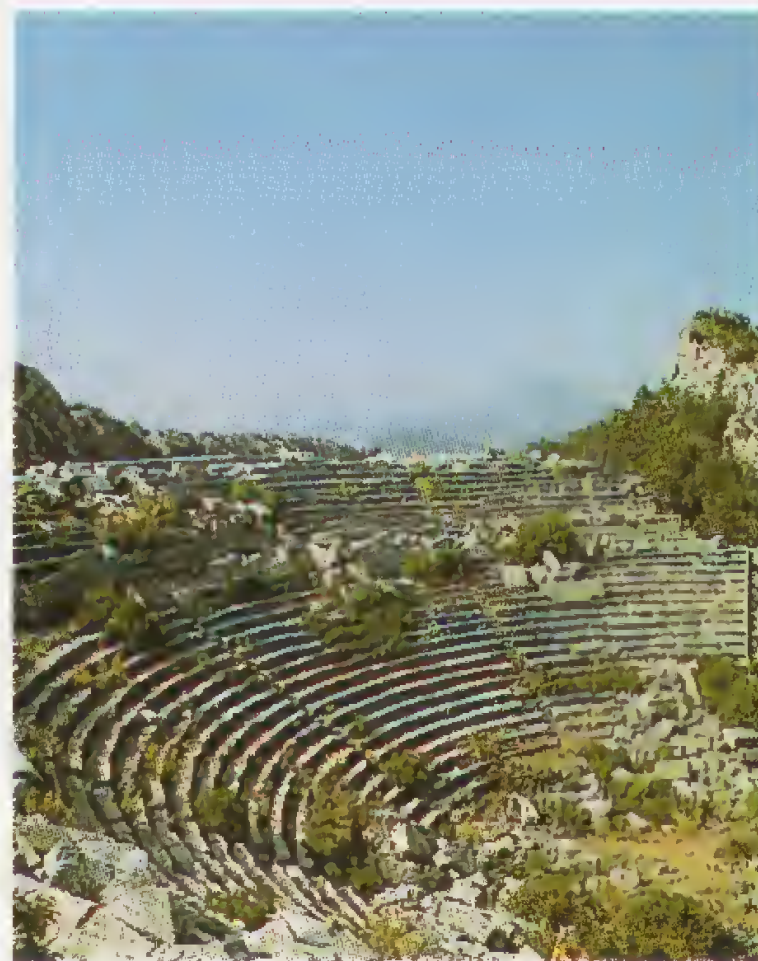
What could be more appealing than dream-like landscapes, a rich variety of flora, grand mountains, and the magnificent colors of the sea? Add to that the lively holiday life with the quiet of ancient ruins and you have a perfect vacation. From Antalya there are many possibilities for day-trips:

At the **Upper Düden Waterfalls**, 14 km northeast of Antalya, you can walk behind the rushing cascade for a thrilling experience. On the way to Lara Beach, the **Lower Düden Waterfalls** plunge straight into the sea. The nearby rest area offers an excellent view of the falls and the view is even more spectacular from the sea. **Kurşunlu Waterfalls** and **Nilüfer Lake**, both 18 km from Antalya, are two more places of superb natural beauty.

The sandy **Lara Beach** lies about 12 km to the east. Closer to Antalya, but to the west, the long, pebbled **Konyaaltı Beach** offers a view of the breathtaking mountain range. A little farther along, the **Bey Dağları (Olympus) National Park** and **Topçam Beach** provide more splendid vistas. **Sıçan** is a lovely nature island. There are camping grounds at the north end of the park, should you decide to linger amid the natural beauty. For a panoramic view of the area drive to the holiday complex and revolving restaurant on top of **Tünektepe Hill**.



Karain Cave, Antalya



Termessos Amphitheater,
Antalya

Saklıkent, 50 km from Antalya, is an ideal winter sports resort on the northern slopes of **Bakırlı Mountain** at an altitude of 1,750 to 1,900 meters. In March and April you can ski in the morning, eat a delicious lunch of fresh fish at Antalya's marina and sunbathe, swim or wind surf in the afternoon. You can see wildlife - deer and mountain goat - that are under a conservation program in **Düzlerçamı Park**, north of Antalya. On the way, you can stop at the astonishing 115-meter deep **Güver Canyon**.

On the eastern side of **Çan Mountain**, 30 km from Antalya, the **Karain Cave**, which dates from the Paleolithic Age, is the site of the oldest settlement in Turkey. A single entrance, lit by the morning sun, opens onto three large interconnecting chambers. Although the little museum at the entrance displays some of the finds, most of the artifacts are housed in various museums throughout Turkey. Some of them are dated at 160,000 BC.

The ruins of the city of **Termessos** are perched on a 1,050-meter high plateau on the west face of **Güllük Mountain (Solymos)** found in **Mt. Güllük National Park** northwest of Antalya. A wild and splendid landscape surrounds the monumental traces of this city. A nature and wildlife museum is found at the park entrance.



Kurşunlu Waterfall, Antalya

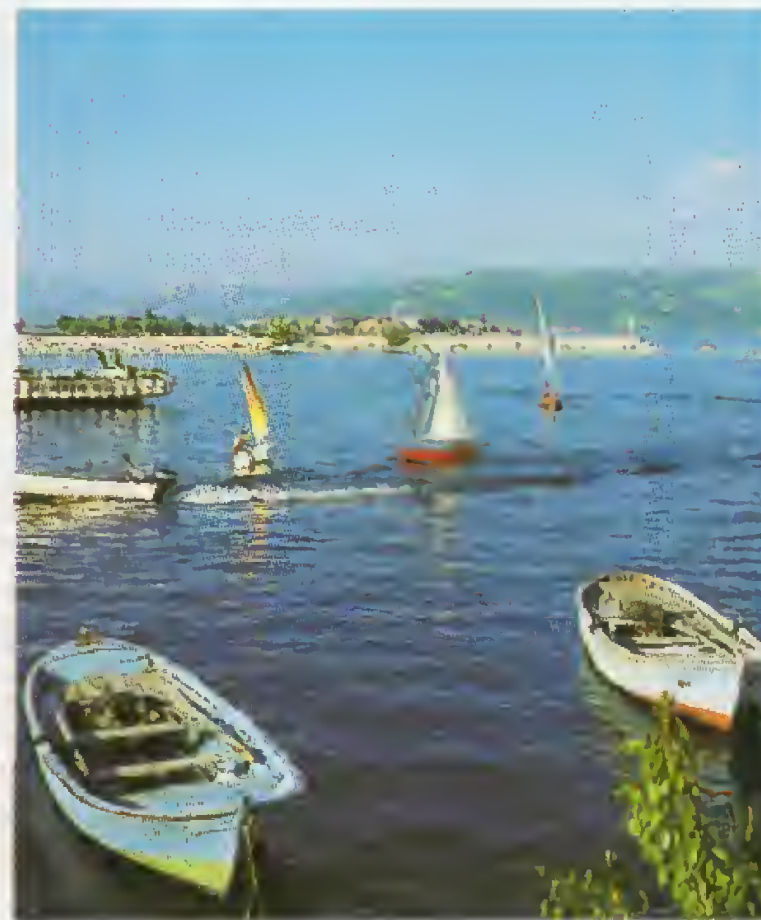
NORTH OF ANTALYA

Renowned for its unspoiled landscape, flora, and fauna, the **Göller Bölgesi (Lake District)** lies in a mountainous area 150 km north of Antalya. The city of **Burdur** is known throughout Turkey for its beautiful lakes, as well as for its carpets and kilims. The Bakırcılar Çarşısı is a shopping area where you can find fine hand crafted copper. This city also preserves excellent examples of Ottoman regional architecture, in particular the Taşoda, Kocaoda (also known as Çelikbaş), and Mısırlılar Konaks, or mansions, dating back to the 17th century. Both the interior and exterior decorations reveal much of the Ottoman aesthetic. (Open everyday except Monday). The Burdur Archeological Museum houses some very important artifacts from around the region. (Open everyday except Monday)

Burdur Lake, with nice beaches for swimming, is a superb location for water sports. A climb to the top of **Susamlık Hill** gives you a panoramic view over the city and lake. The **İnsuyu Cave**, 10 km south on the road to Antalya, is 597 meters long, with nine distinct pools, and chambers filled with stalactites and stalagmites. **Kremna (Çamlık)** is 60 km from Burdur and 15 km from Bucak near Çamlık village in Bucak County. It was an important Pisidian city and contains Roman and Byzantine era ruins. The **İncirhan**



Isparta



Eğirdir Lake, Isparta

Caravanserai is located 7 km west of Bucak in Incirdere (Dereköy). It was built in the 13th century by the Seljuk ruler Gıyasettin Keykubat.

A hundred kilometers southwest of Burdur, in **Gölkisar (Cibyra)**, are ruins, mostly from Roman times, of an important ancient north Lycian city with a stadium, lower and upper agora, theater, necropolis and large aqueducts. Also in the region, trapped in the mountains 1,050 meters above sea level, is beautiful **Lake Salda**, an ideal location for relaxation and cooling off on the sandy beaches or in the lake side cafes, hotels and restaurants. Also in the region is **Hacılar Höyük** (Hacılar mound) containing ceramics dating from 5400 to 8500 BC. It was excavated in 1950.

The ancient site of **Sagalassos** is 33 km east of Burdur and 7 km south of the town of **Ağlasun**. It was the Pisidian capital city and has ruins from Roman times that included a memorial entrance gate, colonnaded street, lower and upper agoras, temple and magnificent theater.

High in the Taurus Mountains is **Isparta**, a city of lakes and lovely coastal areas overgrown in the spring and summer with an exuberance of wild flowers. In the city you

should stop at the Ulu Mosque built in 1417 by the Seljuks. The Bedesten, or covered bazaar, dates from 1561. Firdevs Paşa Mosque, also called Mimar Sinan Mosque was also built in 1561 by the great Ottoman architect Sinan. Be sure to see the 14th-century Isparta Castle. Rose gardens that produce rose oil for the cosmetic industry surround the city and fill it with their sweet scent. Other souvenirs include a thickly piled Isparta carpet. In the nearby hills, the districts of **Kirazlıdere** and **Sidre** are popular with visitors who want to relax and enjoy the view. South of Isparta, **Gölcük Lake**, encircled by aromatic pine forests, rests at an impressive 1,405 meters above sea level.

Eğirdir, at the southern end of **Lake Eğirdir**, is set in idyllic natural surroundings. Among the man-made monuments, Eğirdir Castle built by the Lydian King Croesus shows additions and renovations made by Romans, Byzantines and Seljuks. The Seljuk Kemerli Minare has felt the changes of the modern world - today it stands in the middle of a road. At lake side restaurants you can sample white bass, the local speciality. A boardwalk connects the shore to **Eğirdir Island** where weavers erect their looms and work outside their houses.

Up in the hills, on the western side of the lake, guest-houses in **Barla** provide a wonderful opportunity for relaxation. **Kovada National Park**, 30 km south of Lake Eğirdir, surrounds Kovada Lake, a pristine and cool mountain getaway.



Ağlasun (Sagalassos), Burdur



**Pisidian Antioch
Yalvaç, Isparta**



Incirhan, Burdur

Northeast of Isparta, **Yalvaç** stands near the ancient city of **Pisidian Antioch**. The actual time it was founded under the Seleucids is unknown, but it was probably a colony of King Antiochus (281 - 261 BC) of Magnesia on the Meander. Antioch then passed under the control of the Galatian kingdom (39 - 36 BC) and then became "Colonia Caesarea" of the Roman Empire in 25 BC and remained so for about 200 years. This is attested to by numerous Latin inscriptions still extant. Under Rome the city was made to resemble the capital on the seven hills. At the end of the third century the city was a metropolis of Pisidia and continued to be under the Byzantines, who increased the number of sacred sites.

This area was visited by Paul and Barnabas around 46 AD. Among the ruins be sure to see St. Paul's Basilica, the aqueducts, the Temple to Augustus, the theater and public baths as you walk along the city's marble streets, all of which was destroyed by Arabs in AD 713. In the middle of the 13th century most of the inhabitants left the ancient site and founded nearby Yalvaç. The Archeological Museum in Yalvaç itself displays several important regional artifacts. Tourists will find not only articles of leather clothing but many other interesting traditional souvenirs made of animal hide. East of Yalvaç, atop **Karakuyu Hill**, is the sanctuary to the moon god (called Men), and the view from it is breathtaking. Giant cedar trees grow in **Kızıldağ National Park**, south of Yalvaç, amid one of Turkey's most splendid landscapes.

WEST OF ANTALYA

The mountains of the **Toros (Taurus) Range** rise up immediately behind the coast. The entire length from **Konyaaltı Beach** to the **Kırlangıç Peninsula** is a national preserve, the **Bey Dağları (Olympos) National Park**. The history of this ancient Lycian Peninsula can be traced back to the Neolithic Age to the settlements at Beldibi.

The 42 km of road from Antalya to **Kemer** pass through spectacular mountain scenery. This resort town has been carefully designed to blend in with the surrounding scenery and offers an ideal environment for a wonderful holiday. The fully-equipped Kemer marina allows yachtsmen to enjoy the unspoiled bays and beaches south of the town. Shoppers will delight in the wonderful range of high quality souvenirs for sale. A beach promenade north of the marina has steps down from its cafes and shops leading directly to the beach. **Kemer Beach** is a Blue Flag beach. (The term "Blue Flag" coined by the European Union signifies especially clean beaches). In the **Yörük (Nomad) Theme Park** you can watch traditional crafts people at work. The adjoining bay is a charming and delightful spot with many sports and daily entertainment facilities discreetly hidden among the pines. April is the month for the colorful Kemer Carnival. Also in the spring are the yacht races between Kemer and Girne in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and between other locations.



Kemer Marina,
Antalya



Kızıltepe, Göynük (Blue Flag) and Beldibi (Blue Flag) north of Kemer and Çamyuva and Tekirova (Blue Flag) to the south, are tourist centers that offer various activities. The holiday villages are all designed to blend into the forest that encircles them. At the foot of 2575 meter high **Mt. Tahtalı (Olympos)**, 15 km south of Kemer, the three harbors of **Phaselis** were once a major commercial center. The ruins of aqueducts, agoras, baths, a theater, Hadrian's Gate and an acropolis reveal the city's historical importance. From the south harbor, look up to Mt. Tahtalı for a spectacular view. The sheltered sandy beaches make a superb playground, and the waters are calm and safe for swimmers.

The ancient city of **Olympos** is situated on the southern side of Mt. Tahtalı. Oleander and laurel bushes shade the Olympos Valley, which can be approached by land or sea. The light playing on the quiet pools of water enhance the mosaics in the bath. A temple gate possibly built during the reign of Marcus Aurelius (161-180 AD), part of a bridge, and a Roman theater also remain from antiquity. The outer walls and towers around the bay date from the Middle Ages.

North of Olympos up from **Çıralı Beach** is **Yanartaş** (at a height of 300 meters) where Greek mythology tells us the Lycian hero Bellerophon mounted his winged horse Pe-



Phaselis, Antalya

gasus and slew the fire-breathing Chimaera. Gas which seeps from the earth burns brightly at night at this site, which the Byzantines also considered a religious area.

South of Olympos, tranquil waters and sandy beaches line the **Bay of Çavuş** where you can water ski on calm waters, discover the colorful marine life or explore the incredible sea caves on the northern shore.

Finike, an entry port west of Olympos, is surrounded by citrus trees and gardens. A sandy beach stretches to the east, and to the west are rocky bays and coves.



Limyra, an ancient Lycian city, is 10 km inland from Finike, via **Turunçova**. The fourth-century BC Pericles mausoleum, decorated with caryatids, is a magnificent example of ancient art. The city walls, necropolis, and Roman theater are also of interest.

Farther along this road is the Lycian city of **Arikanda**. It was inhabited at least by 500 BC and was destroyed several times by fire or earthquake. It was called Akalanda by the Byzantines. Set high on the mountain overlooking one of Turkey's most beautiful valleys, the extensive ruins include an agora, a theater with seven sections, a stadium, a



Myra Rock Tombs, Demre - Antalya

bouleuterion, a water system, a gymnasium, baths and scattered sarcophagi. The baths are still in good condition.

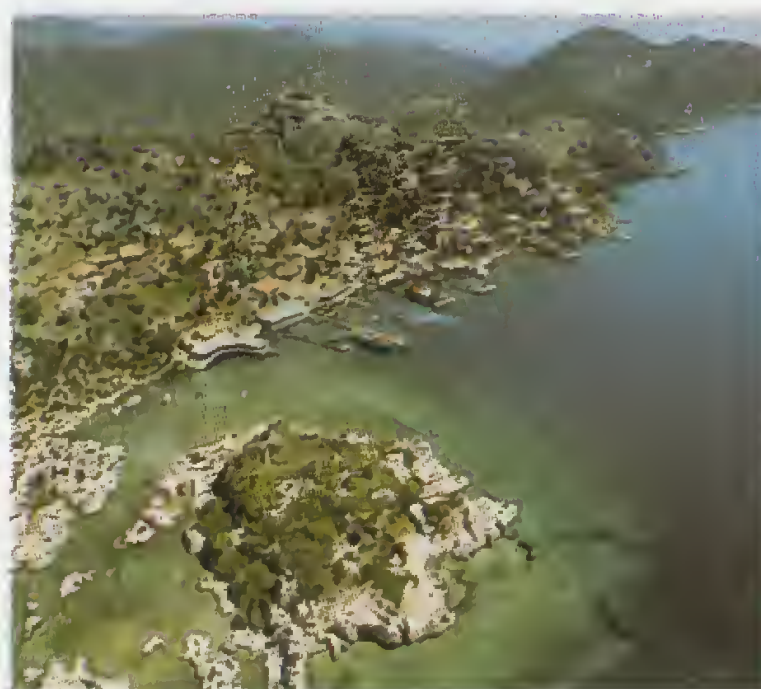
The ancient city of **Myra**, now called **Demre** or **Kale**, is 25 km west of Finike. It was inhabited as early as 500 BC. Many splendidly carved rock tombs dating from the 4th century BC overlook the magnificent Roman theater. St. Nicholas, who was born in Patara, was the bishop of Myra during the 4th century AD, and died there in 345. Every year in December the St. Nicholas Commemoration Ceremony attracts many tourists who spend their Christmas holidays on the sunny Mediterranean coast of ancient Lycia.

Çayağzı, the ancient harbor of **Andriace**, west of Demre, has a good beach for swimming and sunbathing. Notice the busts of Faustina and Hadrian next to an ancient storage shed.

Kekova, an island an hour from Dalyanağzı by sea, gives its name to a whole ensemble of picturesque islands, numerous bays and ancient cities. These bays provide natural harbors in all seasons, and yachtsmen particularly enjoy exploring the unspoiled landscape. Along the northern shore of **Kekova Island** at **Apollonia**, earthquakes have disturbed the land causing some of the ancient houses to sink under the clear water, thus creating a sunken city. **Kaleköy Castle (Simena)** offers a bird's-eye view of the bays, inlets, islands and colorful yachts sailing peacefully over the glassy water.



**St. Nicholas,
Myra-Antalya**



Kaleköy (Simena), Antalya

Continuing west out of Kekova, you come to **Kaş**, a lovely spot surrounded on three sides by mountains. The friendly local fishermen are happy to run a water-taxi service to take you to a favorite bay, cove or beach along the coast. The swimming and diving are excellent in the clear cool water around Kaş.

Kaş was founded in the 4th century BC as **Antiphellos**. Now only the Lycian rock tombs, sarcophagi and a theater are left. But the charm of the town remains, and it is a pleasure to wander through the streets, stopping to examine souvenir shops that offer Turkish handicrafts, leather goods, copper and silver items, cotton clothing and the inevitable handmade carpet.

After shopping stroll along the flower-lined Akdeniz Promenade or relax under the shade of a palm tree. The mountains that surround the town provide their share of activities and sights while the bars and restaurants offer plenty of night life. You can walk through forested hills to visit remote villages and ancient ruins. The energetic may want to attempt the highest peak in the area, **Mt. Kızlar Sivrisi** (3,086 meters), or the second highest, **Mt. Akdağ** (3,030 meters).

Along the scenic Kalkan road, **Kaputaş** has a beautiful beach, at one end of which is the Turquoise Grotto. A little distance to the west is **Kalkan**, a lovely small hilltop town that overlooks a tiny bay. Its quaint, traditional, white-washed houses, shuttered windows and balconies with brilliant flowers that cascade to the streets below, make it the



Kalkan-Antalya

ultimate in a peaceful holiday town. Narrow winding streets lined with souvenir shops lead down to the charming marina. Every morning boats are busy taking tourists to one of the nearby beaches or small bays. As the sun sets it is Kalkan style to meet on the roof terraces for a drink before dinner and enjoy the comings and goings of the yachts, the business of the marina and the panoramic view.

Once a principal harbor of ancient Lycia, **Patara** is now reached by following a winding mountain road before descending to the site. According to Greek mythology Apollo was born here. More concrete history reveals that this town was the birthplace of St. Nicholas. The ruins are, of course, numerous and interesting. A second century AD theater has been partially excavated, and there is a gate with three arches built in 100 AD. But Patara is also a place for beach lovers. Its 22 km of pure white sand stretches as far as the eye can see, making it a natural choice for all types of beach sports. The remoteness of this undiscovered corner makes it feel like a private getaway.

The ancient Lycian capital of **Xanthos**, today in the Turkish village **Kınık**, lies 18 km north of Patara. The theater, Tomb of the Harpies, Nereid Monument, agora, and Inscribed Pillar, among a mixture of ruins from Lycian, Roman and Byzantine times, create a special atmosphere at this site. At the Lycian cultic center of **Letoon**, six km farther, three temples dedicated to Leto, Apollo and Artemis, familiar gods of mythology, await the exploring tourist.



Harpy and Semerdam Memorials, Xanthos-Antalya



Belek-Antalya

EAST OF ANTALYA

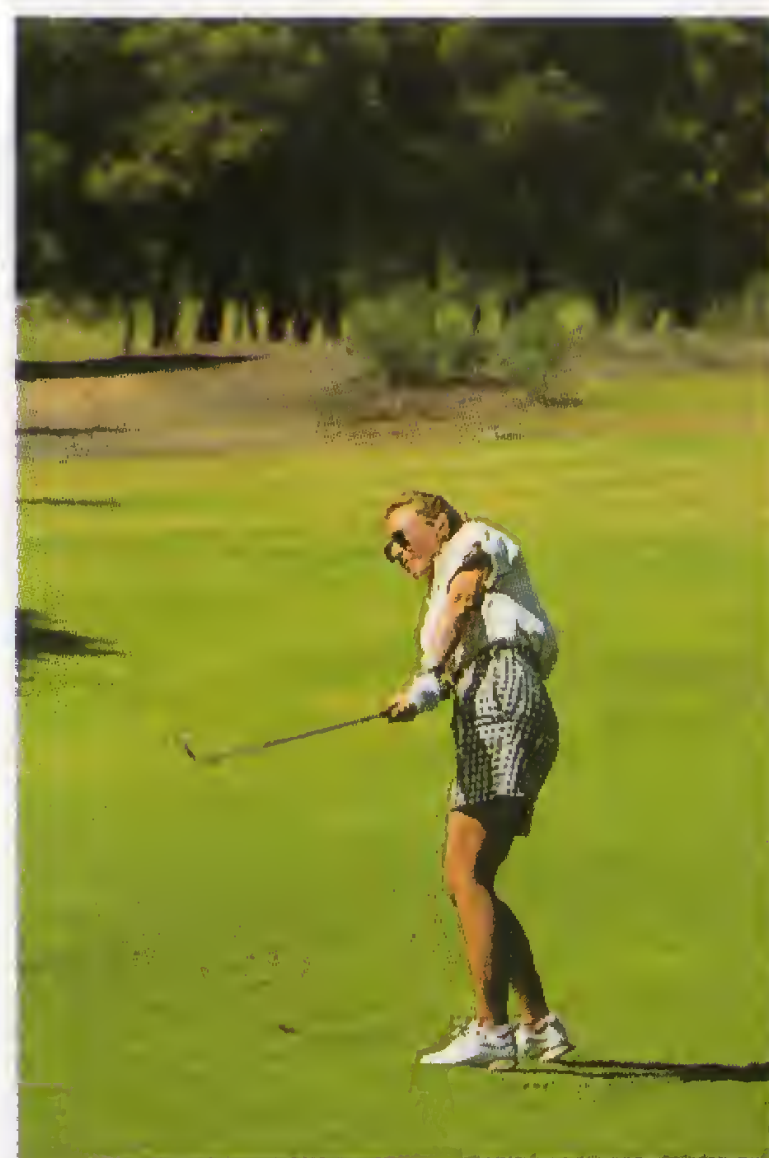
Wide, fertile plains parallel the endless sandy beaches east of Antalya until you come to Alanya. Abundant modern tourist facilities and well-preserved historical sites give you a number of options for a day's activities.

Perge (18 km from Antalya) was an important city of ancient **Pamphylia**, originally settled by the Hittites around 1500 BC. St. Paul visited this city on his first missionary journey. The theater stage has finely carved marble reliefs, and other carvings from around the city are displayed in the stadium. Amateur archeologists will want to see the handsome city gate flanked by two lofty towers, a long colonnaded road once paved with mosaics and lined with shops, a large agora, the public baths and a gymnasium.

Swimmers and sunbathers alike enjoy **Belek**, a modern luxurious holiday center and golfer's paradise, 40 km from Antalya. The **National Golf Club** located in Belek features a wide variety of water sports as well as a championship 18-hole golf course and 9-hole academy course. Visitors may sample some of Turkey's finest cuisine and enjoy open air discos for evening entertainment.



**Aspendos Amphitheater,
Antalya**



A photogenic Seljuk bridge crosses the **Köprü River** from the road to **Aspendos**. The road continues past the Aspendos Jewelry Center to the Aspendos Theatre, the best-preserved theater of antiquity, with seating for 15,000. Still used today, the theater's galleries, stage decorations and acoustics all testify to the architect's success. Nearby stand the remains of a basilica, an agora and one of the largest aqueducts in Anatolia.

And if you have ever wondered how gold dust becomes a fine piece of art or how precious stones are engraved, be sure to visit the Aspendos Jewelry Center, where jewelry making can be observed at every stage in the large workshop.

Northeast of Antalya, at the turn off for **Taşağıl** and **Beşkonak**, is the scenic route that leads to the 14-km-long **Köprülü Canyon National Park**. The twisting road winds over mountain streams and passes through virgin cedar forest. It is often a slow drive because the view at every turn is more beautiful than the last. The park, 92 km from Antalya, is a valley of wild beauty rich in flora and fauna. The canyon stretches for 14 km along the Köprü River and is 400 meters



Side Amphitheater, Antalya

deep in some places. Fish restaurants dot the rest areas. The Roman **Oluk Bridge**, which spans the canyon, and the **Büçrüm Bridge** over the **Kocadere** stream, are engineering feats of antiquity. From this park you can take two possible excursions - to the ancient city of **Selge** or to the **Dedegöl Mountains**. Dedegöl, the highest peak in this mountain range rises to 2,992 meters. An important city of ancient **Pisidia**, **Altinkaya (Selge)**, northwest of Köprülü Canyon National Park, is reached by a winding mountain road. The city walls, towers, cisterns, temple



Köprülü Canyon, Antalya

to Zeus, agora, stadium, theater carved into boulders, gymnasium and necropolis still remain from this commercial city that stood at an elevation of 950 meters. Historians verify that Selge had direct trade with Antalya, which brought it prosperity. Selge was ruled by Lydians and others.

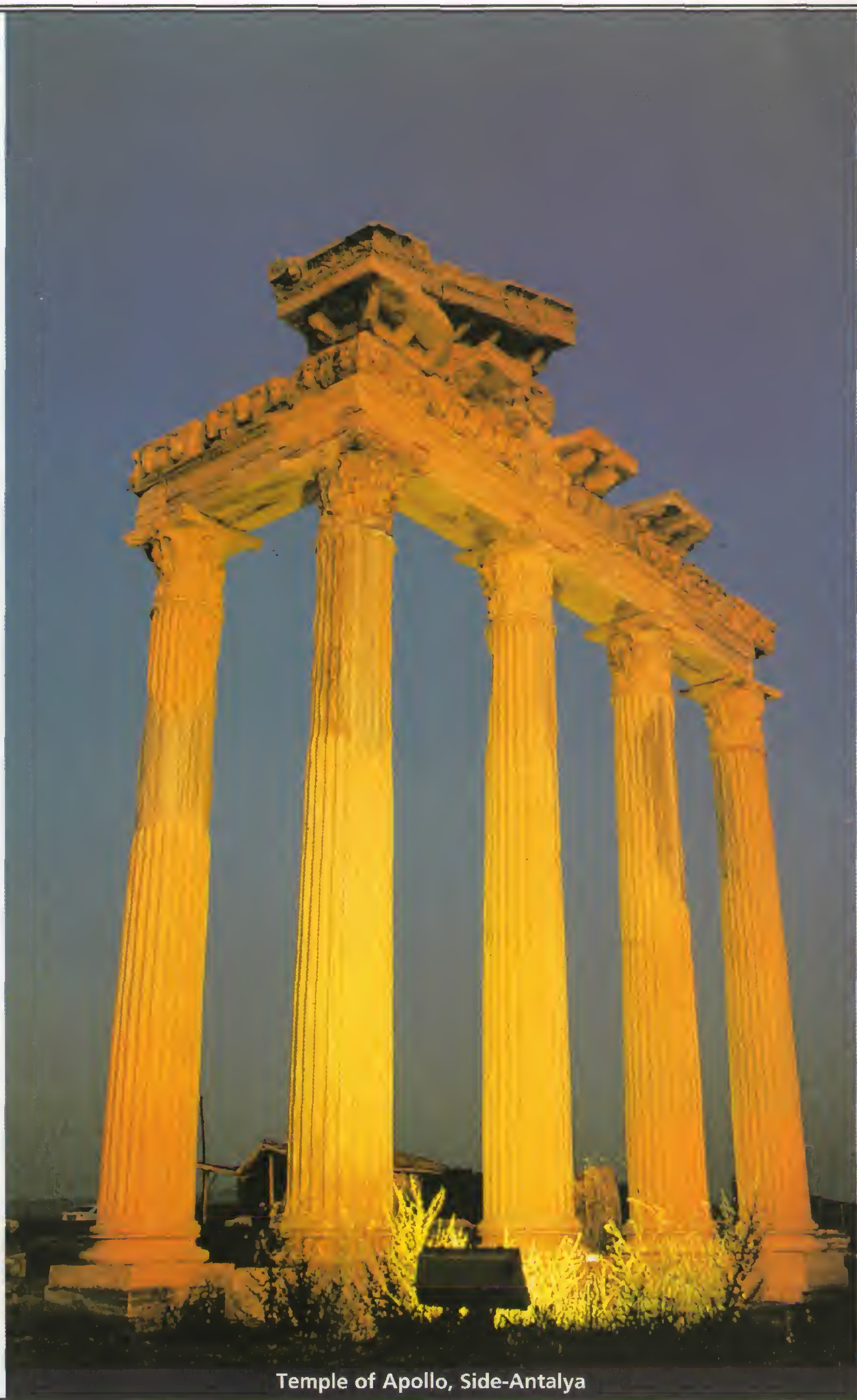
Although the **Manavgat Waterfalls** are not high, milky white, foaming water rushes powerfully over the rocks. Next to the waterfalls shady tea gardens and restaurants make the falls a pleasant, cool resting spot, especi-

ally welcome after a day of sightseeing. You can take a delightful boat trip up the Manavgat River to explore this lovely area further.

Side, one of the best-known classical sites in Turkey, was an ancient harbor whose name meant pomegranate. Today a pretty resort town, its ancient ruins, two sandy beaches, numerous shops and extensive tourist accommodation attract throngs of visitors. There are numerous cafes and restaurants with a view of the sea, and the shops that line the narrow streets sell typical Turkish handicrafts including leather goods and Turkey's famous beautiful gold jewelry. The magnificent theater of the ancient city, built on colonnaded arches, is the largest in the whole area. Other monuments include the agora, the Temple of Apollo, which is situated near the sea, a fountain and necropolis. The extensive Roman baths, now a museum, houses one of Turkey's finest archeological collections.

Tucked in pine forests east of Side, the holiday resorts of **Sorgun**, **Titreyen Göl** (Blue Flag) and **Kızılağaç** are popular for their sandy beaches and sparkling sea. The atmosphere is relaxed, the accommodation plentiful and the activities endless.

West of Side, the holiday centers of **Kumköy**, **Çolaklı** and **Kamelya** also offer sun and sea, in close proximity to ancient sites.



Temple of Apollo, Side-Antalya



Alanya Castle, Antalya



Manavgat Waterfall, Antalya

At **Seleucia of Pamphlyia (Bucakşihlar)**, 15 km northeast of Side, are the remains (in good condition) of Roman baths, temples, churches, a mausoleum, theatre and agora. One of the most interesting and well known caves in Turkey is located in **Altınbeşik Cave National Park** situated 12 kilometers southeast of **Aydınkent (İbradı)** and 55 kilometers north of Manavgat. Lakes and interesting rock formations within the cave area as well as travertines and streams make this area especially fascinating. Altınbeşik Cave is situated on the western slopes of the Manavgat River Valley and can be reached via the village of **Ürünü**, which is an

authentic village and a must-see when travelling through this area.



Alarahan, Alanya

The **Alarahan** caravanserai was built by Seljuk sultan Alaeddin Keykubat in 1230 on the banks of the **Alara** River. On the top of a nearby hill the Alara Fortress commands a view of the whole area.

The large and popular resort center of **Alanya** lies at one end of a rocky promontory which juts out into the Mediterranean between two long sandy beaches. A fortress re-

paired by the Seljuks in 1231, one of the most magnificent sights on the coast, crowns the headland. Nearly 150 towers punctuate the walls of the well-preserved, double-walled citadel. Within the outer walls are ruins of mosques, a caravanserai and a covered bazaar, and within the inner walls are a ruined cistern and a Byzantine church. Although Alanya's history dates back to Roman times, it rose to prominence under the Seljuks, when in 1220, Alaeddin Keykubat made it his winter residence and naval base. The surviving buildings reflect the importance of the city in Seljuk times. Besides the impressive citadel, tourists should explore the unique dockyards and the octagonal Kızıl Kule (Red Tower).

Alanya itself is a beautiful holiday center of modern hotels and motels, as well as numerous fish restaurants, cafes and bars. The cafes that ring the harbor have become popular gathering places for tourists. There are also three blue flag beaches. From the town's lovely park, the road runs along the coast to the harbor, lined with countless boutiques that tempt tourists with handicrafts, leather, clothes, jewelry, handbags and the amusing painted gourds that are a symbol of the area. In August, when Alanya hosts a colorful International Folklore Festival the atmosphere is charged with vitality and gaiety.



Ulaş Beach, Alanya



Dim Çayı, Alanya

If you enjoy exploring you should visit the **Damlataş Cave** to see the eerie misshapen rock formations. Nearby is the Archeology and Ethnography Museum (Open weekdays except Monday). A boat can take you to three sea grottoes: **Fosforlu Mağara** with its phosphorescent rocks; the **Kızlar Mağarası**, where pirates imprisoned their female captives; and the **Aşıklar Mağarası**.

When the intense sun overpowers you, take a day trip to the **Dim Çayı Valley**, 15 km east of Alanya, where you can relax in the shade of this scenic valley and listen to the stream rushing by. Thirty km east of Alanya is **Aytaç**, the historical harbor city of **Iotape** and a great excursion site with Roman ruins, secluded beaches and bays.

If you travel east from Alanya towards **Gazipaşa** you will discover and, no doubt, linger on the exceptional beaches. The attractive Gazipaşa County was awarded its name by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Near Gazipaşa is **Yalındünya Cave** with many natural water pools. Also discover the **Korsanlar Aşk Mağarası (Pirates' Love Cave)**. The royal graves at **Doğanma** on Mt. Adanda and Mt. Güney are also worth seeing. Near the ancient city of **Solinos** there is a comfortable vacation locale. Be sure not to miss the picturesque Turkish houses at **Hasdere**.

Avsallar (İncekum), about 25 km from Alanya to the west, is a holiday resort center with fine sandy beaches.



Iotape Ancient Harbor, Gazipaşa-Antalya

THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COAST



Kızkalesi, Mersin

Mark Antony gave the lovely Cilician shores between Alanya and the Syrian Border to Cleopatra as a wedding present. Also associated with the region's past is St. Paul, a native of **Tarsus**. Today the region is known for its fertile soil which produces abundant crops, and for the hospitality of the region's denizens.

Surrounded by densely cultivated market gardens, **Mersin**, the provincial center of **İçel**, lies midway on the eastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey. Its shady palm-lined avenues, city park and modern hotels create a pleasant ambience from which to visit the nearby historical sites and numerous beaches. A rapidly developing city and the largest free-zone port on the Turkish Mediterranean, Mersin has a regular car ferry service to Gazimagosa (Famagusta) in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. In the fish market, sample the daily catch in one of the se-



veral inexpensive restaurants. Other local delicacies include *cezerye*, a local confection made of carrot rolled around a walnut center, and *biberli ekmek*, a small pizza topped with a spicy meatless sauce. Despite its very modern appearance, Mersin (ancient Zephyrium) occupies the site of an extremely ancient city. It was called Kizuwatna by the Hittites. At the **Yumuktepe** tumulus, three kilometers west of town, continuing excavations have unearthed several successive settlements dating back to 6000 BC to the Neolithic Age. It has also been learned from a letter from the Hittite queen, Puduhepa (1282-1275 BC), to the Ugarite king in Syria, Niqmepa, that the residents of Ura (Hyria) at the head of the Göksu (Calycadnos) River in İçel were engaged in sea trade with the Ugarites. There are remains of various civilizations throughout İçel, but the majority of remains are from the Roman, Byzantine, and Turkish eras.



Kings' Tombs, Mersin



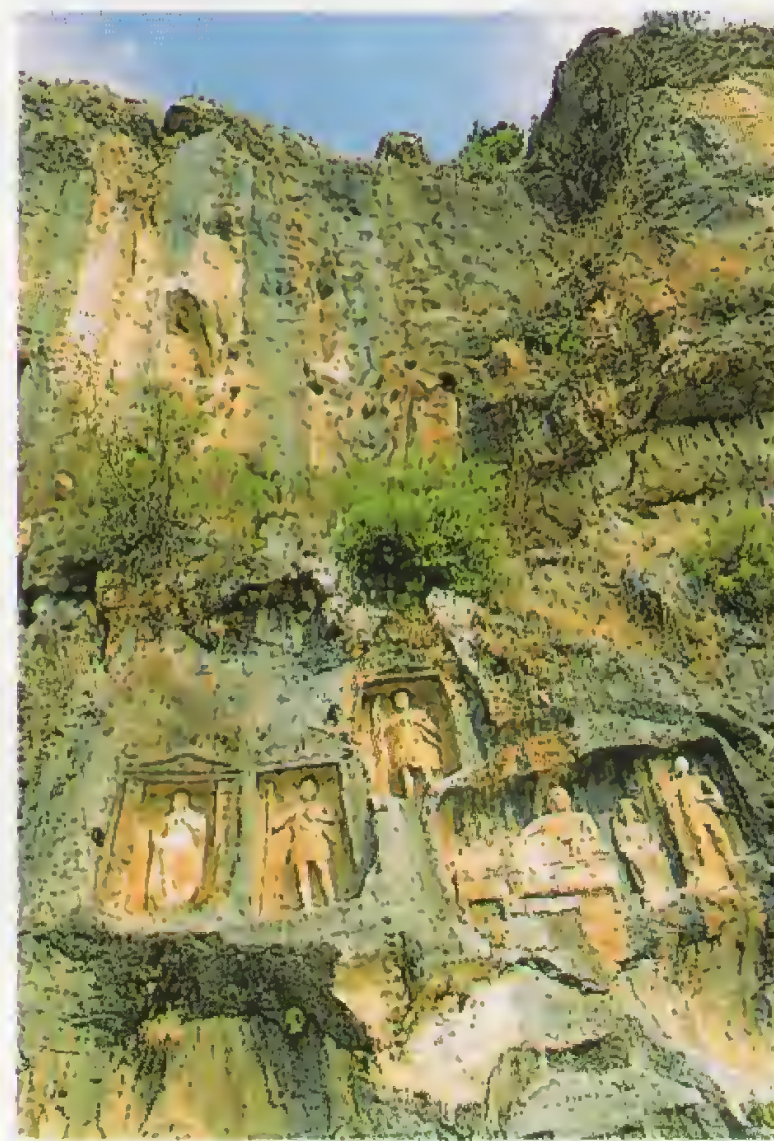
Three Beauties, Narlıkuyu Mosaic Museum, Mersin

FROM MERSİN TO ANAMUR

The road from Mersin to Silifke closely follows the coast, passing pine forests and orange groves. On one side lie the ruins of cities, basilicas and tombs, on the other a series of small secluded coves with sandy beaches. Eleven km west of Mersin is a row of Corinthian columns that once lined the main street of **Viranşehir** (ancient **Pompeiopolis** and **Soloi**), founded in 700 BC by Rhodians. At **Kanlıdivane** are the ruins of ancient **Kanytelis**, with tombs resembling small temples and churches, and sarcophagi dating from Roman and Byzantine times. The city itself and the ruins are all on the sides of a deep chasm.

Kızkalesi, 50 km southwest of Mersin, is a holiday resort and the ancient site of **Korykos**, with fine sandy beaches, motels and camp sites. The 12th century Castle of Korykos on shore faces another fort, Kızkalesi (Maiden's Castle), that stands on a tiny island 200 meters offshore. Formerly a sea wall joined the two fortresses.

Just beyond Kızkalesi, on a bay lined with fish restaurants at the little fishing village of **Narlıkuyu**, is a Roman mosaic called the Three Beauties. Farther on is a naturally formed cave known as **Cennet** (Heaven) 275 meters by 125 meters at the bottom of a



**Adam Kayalar
(Human Boulders), Mersin**



**Chapel at the entrance to the
"Heaven" cave**

valley, and a deep chasm called **Cehennem** (Hell). In the Vale of Heaven are the ruins of a temple converted into a Christian chapel in the fifth century. The chasm called hell is 50-75 m wide and 80-120 m deep. Nearby is the deep **Narlıkuyu Cave**, full of stalagmites and stalactites and calcium carbonate. The humid air in the cave reportedly helps those who suffer from respiratory diseases. The Romans carved stairs going down into the cave.

The **Mausoleum of the Fearless King (Mezgit Kalesi)** is 12 km north of **Susanoglu Beach** and 2.5 km east of **Pash Village**. The mausoleum facade is 8 meters high, with Corinthian columns and a 1-meter-high relief of Priapos on the base. It is the largest mausoleum and dates from Roman times.

Slightly inland is **Silifke** (90 km from Mersin) spreading out at the foot of a hill. This piece of high ground crowned with a citadel was formerly the acropolis of ancient **Cilician Seleucia**. In the town a Roman bridge dating to 77 or 78 AD crosses the ancient **Calycadnos River**, today known as the **Göksu**. Ruins of a Roman temple and a 200 AD theater can also be seen. Atatürk once stayed in a local turn-of-the-century house that has



Anamur Castle, Mersin

now been converted into the Ethnography Museum. The Silifke Archeology Museum, on the road to Taşucu, is filled with relics from all over the area. Also located in Silifke are the Aladdin Mosque and the Tevekkül Sultan Shrine. In the Göksu Delta, over 300 species of birds are protected.

In **Demircili** (the ancient **Imbriogon**), north of Silifke on the way to Uzuncaburç, there are well-preserved memorial tombs of the early Roman period.

The drive up the mountain road to the magnificent ancient site of **Diocaesarea (Uzuncaburç)** at 1200 meters is lined with large tombs. The remains of the impressive Temple of Zeus Olbius from the Hellenistic period, the Temple of Tyche, the god of luck, a monumental arch, a theater built between



161-180 AD, a Byzantine church, and a tower are outstanding. Four kilometers to the east are the ruins of **Olba (Ura)** where the Roman aqueducts, theater, and fountain make a quick tour well worthwhile.

Continuing along the coastal road south from Silifke you come to the 5th century **Meryemlik (Ayatekla)**, a Roman necropolis with the tomb and church of St. Thecla, the first female martyr / saint.

Taşucu, with good accommodation for tourists, is a resort town with sandy beaches and a harbor. A regular sea bus and ferry boat service connects the town with Girne in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Ovacık, 44 km west of Taşucu, is a quiet spot well-known for its fisherman's wharf

and beach. The **Peninsula** (ancient **Cavaliere**) of **Ovacık** is one of the natural highlights of Turkey, an ideal area for diving. If this sport interests you, visit **Kösrelük Bay (Afrodisias)** and **Kösrelük Island**. Eighteen km southeast of Ovacık off the coast of Kösrelük Bay, you will find Roman ruins and beautiful mosaics. Off **Aydıncık**, to the west of Ovacık, the surrounding sailing waters are clearly marked, ensuring yacht safety along this breathtaking stretch of coast. The shore road that clings to the pine-clad mountain slopes, which plunge steeply down to the sea, offers spectacular views of cliffs, coves and the brilliant turquoise waters of the Mediterranean.

Another 36 km to the west of Aydıncık, **Bozyazı** is a holiday center with clean and roomy camping sites along its wide beaches.

The fine, well-preserved **Anamur Castle**, set between two curving sandy beaches, commands a splendid view of the coastline. Originally built by the Crusaders in the Middle Ages, it later served as an Ottoman stronghold.

Thirteen km from Bozyazı and a few km inland, the town of **Anamur** is nestled in the mountains with banana plantations surrounding it. Just west of town on a beautiful beach are the ruins of ancient **Anamorium** with double ramparts, theater, odeon, bath and necropolis. Situated on terraces above the sea, it is perfect for a climb to the top which overlooks one of the cleanest and most pristine seashores in Turkey.



Uzuncaburç, Silifke, Mersin

TARSUS TO ANTAKYA

East of Mersin, on the edge of the fertile Çukurova Plain, is **Tarsus**, the birthplace of St. Paul. Of ancient origin, the city was invaded and destroyed on several occasions. In the past, it had served as a capital city. Archeological remains to be seen are some bronze weapons, the Cleopatra Gate through which Mark Antony and Cleopatra passed when they came to Tarsus to meet, a Hittite temple, an ancient church, the Ottoman Ulu Cami, and the Kubat Paşa theological school. Little streams, waterfalls and shady trees at the **Tarsus Falls** on the outskirts of town are an idyllic place to spend an afternoon. The **Karaburçak Park** is perfumed by its groves of eucalyptus trees.

Set in the heart of the **Çukurova (Cilician) Plain**, Turkey's fourth largest city, **Adana** is at the center of a rich agricultural region and a thriving textile industry. The 310-meter-long Taşköprü (Stone Bridge) built by Hadrian and repaired by Justinian spans the **Seyhan River** which bisects the town; only 14 of the bridge's original 21 arches still stand. Of interest in the city are the Ulu Mosque built in 1509, the Eski Mosque, the Hasan Ağa Mosque, the 19th-century clock tower and the old covered bazaar. To be included



Karatepe - Aslantaş, Osmaniye

in a tour of the city are three museums: the Archeological Museum, which displays locally excavated Hittite and Roman remains; the charming Ethnography Museum; and the Atatürk Culture Museum.

After a day of sightseeing you can sample Adana kebab, a sensational spicy kebab of ground meat. Local beverages include *shal-gam*, a drink made from dark turnips, and *shıra*, a type of grape juice.

North of the city, at the **Seyhan Dam and Lake**, are shady walks, quaint tea gardens and restaurants set in a cool place to escape the heat. At sunset, look back toward the city to the peaceful, winding ruby river, lined with twinkling lights.

The nearest beaches with accommodation facilities are at **Yumurtalık**, where an ancient harbor castle dominates the picturesque fisherman's wharf, and at **Karataş**. Fishermen will enjoy the scene, and the catch, at **Çamlık Park**.

Off the road from Adana to İskenderun, near **Yakapınar**, lies **Misis**, a city which derived its wealth from its position on the Silk



Cleopatra Gate, Tarsus



Iskenderun

Road. There are several Roman ruins at the site, including a beautiful fourth-century mosaic pavement depicting Noah's Ark and the animals. Further along the road are the impressive ruins of the **Yılanlıkale** (Şahmeran castle) atop a rocky peak that dominates the **Ceyhan River**. South of Yılanlıkale, in the **Sirkeli** region, a somewhat weathered Hittite relief marks Muvattalish's stop here on his way to Egypt. North of Ceyhan lies the village of **Dilekkaya**, (the ancient **Anavarza**), where you can view the ruins of a Roman-Byzantine city and an impressive castle. The small museum at the site has two particularly fine mosaics from Roman baths. **Osmaniye**, inland from the head of the Gulf of Iskenderun, is the turn-off for two more ancient sites. The road to **Karatepe** takes you to the ancient Roman city of **Castabala**, where a colonnaded street, theater, baths and a fortress on the hill evoke a bygone era. At the **Karatepe National Park**, (a neo-Hittite site), the remains of the summer residence of King Asitawada, tablets bearing Hittite and Phoenician inscriptions which were important in deciphering the Hittite language and an open-air museum with fine bas-reliefs reveal the importance and astonishing aesthetic of this ancient civilization. There are two statues of bulls, and one with a human body and lion's head.

This region was much fought over during the Crusades and the impressive fortress at



**Sokulu Mehmet paşa
Complex, Payas, Iskenderun**

Toprakkale was for a time held by the European armies. Further back in history, Alexander the Great defeated Darius III and the Persian army in 333 BC at the **Plain of Issos (Dört Yol)**. Today this area is covered with large citrus groves which supply the country with oranges, tangerines and lemons.

At **Yakacık (Payas)**, off the highway that outlines the coast of the Gulf of Iskenderun, the splendid 16th-century Sokollu Mehmet Paşa Complex includes mosque, bath, bazaar, caravanserai and medrese. Other monuments include the Cinkulesi (Tower of Jinns) and a castle.



Anavarza Mosaics, Adana

Iskenderun, formerly **Alexandretta**, was founded by Alexander the Great after his victory over the Persians on the Plain of Issos. Today it is a busy commercial center and port with a fine harbor. Excellent hotels, restaurants and cafes line the sea front surrounded by parks and palm trees. The culinary speciality of Iskenderun is sumptuous prawns. Gourmets should also try both *künefe*, a hot dessert of sweetened shredded wheat filled with melted cheese, and humus, an appetizer of pureed chickpeas, garlic and paprika. Good souvenirs include hand carved wooden tables and chairs and other objects of wood.



St. Pierre (Peter's) Church, Antakya

On the coast south of Iskenderun, the holiday town of **Uluçınar (Arsuz)** has good beaches, hotels, guest-houses and restaurants.

On the way to Antakya, off the main road, is the mountain resort of **Soğukoluk** where you can retreat from the summer blazing sun. After you cross the **Belen Pass**, stop at **Bagras Castle**, which was held at various times by the Byzantines, Mamluks and Crusaders. The castle was originally built to control the route to Arabia. There is a chapel in the castle.



**Titus Vespasianus Tunnel
Samandağ, Hatay**

Antakya, the biblical city of Antioch, lies on the **Asi River (Orontes)** on a fertile plain surrounded by grand mountains. Once the capital of the Seleucid kings, it was notorious for its wealth and luxury. In Roman times, the city continued to thrive with commerce and culture. It featured prominently in early Christianity where the name "Christian" was first coined.

The Antakya Archeology Museum houses one of the richest collections of Roman mosaics in the world (Open weekdays except Monday). These fantastic mosaics in stone were

uncovered mostly at excavations in Antakya and nearby Daphne. Outside the town is the Grotto of Peter the apostle. In 1983 the church was declared a sacred site by the Vatican. Other places of interest include a bustling bazaar and the Mosque of Habib Neccar.

South of the grotto, the Iron Gate was one of the actual entrances of biblical Antioch. Strolling through the old part of town, you cannot help recalling that Paul, Peter, Barnabas, and others walked these streets, for little has changed since that time. The Castle of Antioch, set high above the city, offers a magnificent view over the city and the plain.

South of Antakya is **Harbiye**, the ancient **Daphne**, where, according to mythology, Apollo tried to make the wood nymph, Daphne, his lover. To escape him, she changed into a laurel tree. The city was a luxurious suburb in Roman times. Covered with orchards, gardens, laurel trees, and waterfalls, this is an excellent place for a good meal. In October, delicious Harbiye dates are in season. Wonderful laurel-scented soap can also be purchased here.

Samandağ, 25 km from Antakya, is a resort town with a pristine beach. **Seleucia Peria (Çevlik)**, north of town, was founded around 300 BC and by the time Paul and Barnabas started on their first missionary



journey from here it was a busy port. The most interesting monument to see is the Tunnel of Titus, built to divert rain water. Even by today's standards it is a tremendous engineering achievement. You should also drive to the Temple of Zeus at **Kapısuyu** village for a spectacular panorama of the ancient harbor, sandy beach and fertile plain.

Two roads lead from Antakya to Syria: the one to the east and Aleppo passes through the frontier town of **Reyhanlı**; the one to the south goes through **Yayladağ** towards Lazkiye, Tripoli and Beirut.



Mosaic, Antakya Archeology Museum



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Front Cover : Kaleiçi Yacht Harbor, Antalya

Photos :

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Selim Sunter, Timoçin Tulgar, Yılmaz Coşkun,
Ministry of Tourism Archive

Printed in Turkey by
Yorum Matbaacılık / Ankara 2001
Tel: 0 (312) 395 21 12 - 395 21 13
For Free Distribution

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